



GIRL POWDER

Snowstorm slows evening commute in New York City

A young girl brushes off snow on the Fearless Girl statue in lower Manhattan on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018, in New York. One of the first big storms of the season moved across the eastern half of the country on Thursday.

Associated Press
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Senate lets Bahrain weapon sale proceed; Yemen unease grows

By **KEVIN FREKING and LISA MASCARO**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate rejected an effort Thursday to block \$300 million in weapon sales to Bahrain, but there's growing unease in Congress about the U.S. role supporting the Saudi Arabia-led coalition's military campaign in Yemen.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., forced the vote to send a message to President Donald Trump that the United States is "done with the war in Yemen."

Facing a veto threat from the White House, the resolution failed 77-21.

But Paul, who remains close to Trump, is not alone in raising concern about the toll the war is taking in Yemen. In the House, Democratic lawmakers voiced frustration Wednesday after Republican leaders blocked consideration of a resolution from Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., that would direct the president to end the U.S. military's support of Saudi-led forces within 30 days, and until

Congress authorizes such support.

"It is long overdue that we end U.S. complicity in Saudi Arabia's atrocities," said

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii. "We must end all U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's genocidal war in Yemen now."

pledge to block a pending U.S. arm sales to Saudi Arabia, saying he has the votes to stop it.

A previous effort against

New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez, the top Democrat on the committee, said he is opposing the Saudi arms sale because he's concerned the weapons are being used inappropriately in the Yemen conflict. But he took issue with Paul's effort because the particular arms sale to Bahrain is "not part of a comprehensive strategy to end the civil war in Yemen."

GOP Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, the committee chairman, also sought to differentiate between Bahrain and what is taking place in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

He said he has asked for a high-level briefing with Pentagon officials over the war and the death of Khashoggi.

"I'm obviously very upset with what has happened with the journalist. I think a price needs to be paid," Corker said.

But Corker said Bahrain is home to a naval base with 7,800 U.S. service members protecting U.S. interests and serving as a buffer against Iran. He said that blocking an arms sale to an ally over "something that has nothing to do with them, but has something to do with another country is not a pragmatic, nor a sensible step."

Paul said he would like to vote directly on the U.S.'s involvement in the war in Yemen, but he could only get an indirect vote on a coalition partner.

"I'm not asking that we end our alliance," Paul said. "I'm only saying stop one sale of arms to send the message that we are done with the war in Yemen." Paul, a leading non-interventionist, said it's folly for Americans to think that their support for Bahrain doesn't translate into support for a war that Congress has not specifically authorized.

Lawmakers have discussed updating the war powers authorizations that were approved in the aftermath of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, but Congress has yet to do so. □



In this July 17, 2018 file photo, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., talks during a television interview on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

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Bahrain is a member of the Saudi-led coalition at war with Iran-aligned rebels in Yemen since March 2015. The conflict in Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, began with the 2014 takeover of the capital, Sanaa, by the Houthis who toppled the internationally recognized government. The Saudi-led coalition has been fighting the rebels since 2015 in an attempt to restore that government to power.

The focus on the Yemen conflict comes amid fresh scrutiny of Saudi Arabia after the death of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. He was killed during a visit to the Saudi Consulate last month in Istanbul.

Turkey alleges the Saudis were responsible for his death and the U.S. announced Thursday it was imposing sanctions on 17 Saudi officials who it said were responsible for or complicit in the killing.

Paul's effort followed his

Saudi arm sales last year fell just a few votes short.

The Trump administration has not yet notified Congress it's ready to proceed with the next sale of Saudi arms, averting a showdown over the issue, for now.

On Thursday, the White House issued a veto threat against the Bahrain resolution, saying the sales of 120 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System pods and 110 Army Tactical Missile System pods are intended for the defense of Bahrain, which is home to various U.S. military forces.

"The utilization of this ground-based system would enhance Bahrain's ability to protect itself against threats to territorial sovereignty, particularly from Iran," the White House wrote. Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee largely sided with the administration even as they expressed concern over the Yemen conflict.

Snowstorm slows evening commute in New York City

NEW YORK (AP) — The first snowstorm of the season to hit the New York City area brought several inches of snow, slowing Thursday's evening commute to a crawl, after contributing to at least seven deaths as it swept across the country. From St. Louis to the South and into the Northeast, snow, freezing rain, and in some parts, sleet, made driving tricky and closed schools Thursday. In New York City, the wet snowfall and wind gusts Thursday downed numerous tree branches. Police advised people to stay indoors and avoid the roads. Commuters also were advised to avoid the Port Authority Bus Terminal - which is also used by some to travel to New Jersey - due to overcrowding. The poor weather made it difficult for buses to reach the terminal, officials said. And a multi-vehicle accident on the George Washington Bridge added to the traffic nightmare. There were scattered delays on the Long Island Rail Road and New Jersey Transit reported 30-minute delays system wide. Flight delays of up to an hour were reported at JFK, LaGuardia and Newark airports. Forecasters said the snow should turn to mostly sleet and rain before changing to rain overnight. As much as 8 inches (20 centimeters) of snow blanketed the St. Louis area, and forecasters predicted up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) in parts of southern New England as the storm made its way east. They also predicted northern New Jersey could see 4 to 8 inches of snow before the system exits the region early Friday, while parts of suburban Philadelphia had 5 inches (12 centimeters) of snow by Thursday afternoon. In neighboring Mississippi, a tour bus bound for a casino overturned, killing two people and injuring 44 others Wednesday afternoon. Witnesses said the driver lost control after crossing an icy overpass and the bus rolled over on its driv-

er's side, coming to rest in an interstate median, Mississippi Highway Patrol spokesman Capt. Johnny Poulos said. The crash happened about 35 miles (55 kilometers) southeast of downtown Memphis, Tennessee. "All of a sudden the bus started swerving then it spun around two times, hit the rail and then flipped over," bus passenger Veronica Love told news outlets as she left a hospital after the wreck. "The second spin, it started picking up speed. It was, I mean, what could you do?" Later Wednesday night, near Little Rock, Arkansas, three people were killed in separate crashes on icy roads. The interstate was closed and reopened shortly before daybreak Thursday, but officials said traffic was slow-going because some drivers had fallen asleep. Officials in Ohio reported at least one traffic death that was likely weather-related. Indiana State Police also reported a death early Thursday, which they said was caused by the 60-year-old woman driving too fast on a slick road. In Philadelphia, a meteorologist told the Allentown Morning Call that this storm is "an overperformer." By 3 p.m. Thursday, parts of suburban Philadelphia had 5 inches of snow. The freezing rain turned to ice on roads around the state, leading to a number of crashes and reports of cars sliding off roads. In North Carolina, the National Park Service closed a portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway to traffic Thursday because of dangerous road conditions stemming from snow, sleet and freezing rain, the Asheville Citizen Times reported. Schools closed or sent students home early across the lower Great Lakes and the Northeast, including at the University of Connecticut where classes were canceled in the afternoon. In Virginia, the planned launch early Thursday of an unmanned cargo rocket



A couple take shelter under an umbrella from snowfall in front of a mural while another man walks past them in lower Manhattan on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

to the International Space Station had to be rescheduled by one day because of the weather, NASA said.

The unmanned Cygnus cargo craft is now scheduled to lift off early Friday from Wallops Island on the

Eastern Shore carrying supplies and research materials for the astronauts at the space station. □

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Democrat flips U.S. House seat in Maine ranked balloting

By **MARINA VILLENEUVE**

Associated Press

UGUSTA, Maine (AP) — A Democrat who trailed a Republican incumbent in a costly U.S. House race came from behind to emerge as the victor Thursday following extra rounds of tabulations under Maine's new voting system that's facing a legal challenge.

Election officials declared Jared Golden the winner, flipping the seat held by two-term Rep. Bruce Poliquin, after a federal judge declined to halt tabulations in the state's ranked-choice voting system used in last week's election. It was the first time an incumbent has lost that seat in more than 100 years.



In this Nov. 6, 2018 file photo, Democrat Jared Golden, left, joined by wife Isobel, right, speaks to supporters as they wait for results in the 2nd Congressional District election in Lewiston, Maine.

Associated Press

The outcome was a dramatic reversal in the nation's only test of the ranked-choice voting system used for the first time in U.S. House and Senate races.

Golden's election further strengthens a majority for Democrats who swept into power in the House. His election leaves Sen. Susan Collins, of Maine, the lone Republican member of Congress in New England. Golden, a Marine Corps veteran, declared himself the "majority consensus winner" and told reporters he wants to bring to Washington, D.C., the type of leadership he saw in the Marines.

"The best leaders were the ones who didn't worry about who got credit for getting the job done," he said. "Imagine what Congress could do if we had more leaders like that in Washington?" he added. The ranked-choice system, approved in 2016, lets voters rank all candidates from first to last on the ballot. If no one gets a majority, then last-place candidates are eliminated and their second-place votes are reallocated.

In this case, Poliquin and Golden both collected 46 percent of first-place votes, with Poliquin maintaining a slim edge of about 2,000 votes. But additional tabulations were triggered because no one collected a majority.

On Thursday, Golden overtook Poliquin after state election officials eliminated two independent candidates who trailed, collectively gathering about 8 percent of first-place votes.

A computer algorithm reallocated the second-place votes, giving Golden a lead of nearly 3,000 votes. Poliquin questioned the election results Thursday under Maine's ranked-choice voting law. He repeated his claim he "won the constitutional 'one-person, one-vote' first-choice election" on Election Day. Poliquin also said he isn't abandoning a federal lawsuit in which he seeks to have Maine's new ranked-choice voting system declared unconstitutional. The legal challenge by Poliquin and three GOP activists served as the backdrop for the dramatic finale of a hard-fought battle that became the most expensive congressional race in state history.

The lawsuit remains alive even though U.S. District Judge Lance Walker declined Poliquin's request to stop tabulations.

In his decision, however, the judge said it doesn't appear the Constitution prohibits an election process with more than one round of ballot counting. He also said it's plausible the Constitution allows states "sufficient leeway to experiment with the election process."

Golden said he didn't think the ongoing litigation would prevent him from being seated in January. During a press conference, Golden said he's willing to work with Republicans and that his focus will be on getting things done, not in the ongoing investigations of President Donald Trump. He also said he wouldn't vote for Democratic California Rep. Nancy Pelosi to serve as House speaker.

For now, the ranked-choice voting system is used only in federal races and in statewide primary elections in Maine. It cannot be used in the governor's race or legislative races because of concerns it runs afoul of the state constitution.

Democratic Gov.-elect Janet Mills has said she will try to amend Maine's constitution so the system can be used in all elections. □

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VA seeks to reduce GI Bill payment delays after IT woes

By HOPE YEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Veterans Affairs on Thursday promised to try to speed up payments to thousands of veterans after delays caused by information technology problems.

"We are working diligently to minimize these delays affecting GI Bill students," Paul Lawrence, VA's undersecretary for benefits, said in a statement.

Last year, President Donald Trump signed off on the biggest boost in GI benefits in a decade, but the legislation did not take into account the additional time or finances needed to upgrade VA's aging IT systems in order to process claims. The expanded benefits took effect this fall.

Among the GI Bill changes was a provision that offered monthly housing stipends to veterans based on the ZIP codes of the

campus where they attend the most classes, rather than defaulting to the main campuses. That meant a change to the IT systems for hundreds of thousands of GI Bill recipients.

According to VA data provided to The Associated Press, as of this week, about 56,500 veterans had outstanding claims for their GI education benefits, down from 82,000 last week. The numbers include claims recently received, so not all represent a backlog or delayed payment. Out of the 56,500, about 825 were claims pending more than 60 days, the VA said.

Veterans were being paid at the 2017 level until IT problems were fixed.

It said students who were underpaid would receive the remaining amount once IT upgrades are completed. Those who were overpaid due to the change in law would be able to keep the differ-

ence.

"The average claim takes approximately 15 days to process — this is very close to VA's historic processing goal of 14 days or fewer for supplemental claims," the VA said in a statement.

The department stressed that any delay in payments is unacceptable, but acknowledged that payment of GI benefits could still experience problems in the months ahead until IT systems are fixed.

Last week, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie expressed hope that upgraded IT systems could be put in place sometime "early next year." The agency is also work-



Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie places a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018, in Arlington, Va.

Associated Press

ing on restoring benefits for students whose college closed down mid-program, Wilkie said. That is the case for thousands of veterans who were hurt by the collapse of for-profit college giants ITT Technical Institute and Corinthian Colleges in

2015 and 2016.

"I will tell you that the payments are flowing," Wilkie said last week.

The VA said students can contact its call center at 1-888-442-4551 if they are encountering problems with their GI benefits. □

Corrected study: Building, mining have high suicide rates



In this Monday, April 21, 2008 file photo, a U.S. soldier looks through the scope of his weapon during a night patrol in Mandozai, in Khost province, Afghanistan, seen through night vision equipment.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. health officials say the workers with the highest suicide rates have construction, mining and drilling jobs. That was the finding of a report correcting an earlier study that mistakenly said farmers, lumberjacks and fishermen killed themselves most often.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a corrected study Thursday. CDC officials said the 2016 study 's mistakes

included the misclassification of some workers as farmers instead of managers. The study looked at 22,000 people who died of suicide in 2012 and 2015, and what jobs they held. Men had the highest suicide rates. The 2015 suicide rate for men in construction and extraction jobs was 53 per 100,000. The second highest rate was seen in men who worked in arts, design, entertainment and media. □

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Couple, homeless man charged in charitable scam

By **MIKE CATLALINI**

Associated Press

MOUNT HOLLY, N.J. (AP)

— A feel-good tale of a homeless man using his last \$20 to help a stranded New Jersey woman buy gas was actually a complete lie, manufactured to get strangers to donate more than \$400,000 to help the down-and-out good Samaritan, a prosecutor said Thursday.

Burlington County prosecutor Scott Coffina announced criminal charges against the couple who told the story to newspapers and television stations along with the homeless man who conspired with them to tell the story.

Coffina said the money, donated to homeless Marine veteran Johnny Bobbitt, will be refunded to people who saw the story and contributed to him through a GoFundMe page set up by the couple, Mark D'Amico and Katelyn McClure.

"The entire campaign was predicated on a lie," Coffina said. "It was fictitious and illegal and there are consequences."

Coffina said almost no part of the tale was true. McClure didn't run out of gas. Bobbitt didn't spot her in trouble and give her money.

Instead, the group met near a Philadelphia casino



In this Nov. 17, 2017, file photo, Johnny Bobbitt Jr., left, Kate McClure, right, and McClure's boyfriend Mark D'Amico pose at a Citgo station in Philadelphia.

no in October 2017 shortly before the three told their story.

Less than an hour after the couple set up the page to solicit donations, McClure sent a text message to a friend acknowledging the story was "completely made up," prosecutors said.

"I had to make something up to make people feel bad," McClure said in a text — one of 60,000 reviewed by prosecutors

— to a friend. The couple bought a BMW, took a New Year's trip to Las Vegas and bought high-end handbags, among other items. More than \$85,000 in cash was withdrawn at, or near, casinos in Atlantic City, Bensalem, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia and Las Vegas.

The fraud didn't stop with the GoFundMe page. The trio did interview after interview, posed for photos together, revisited the spot

where they claimed their first encounter happened and went on "Good Morning America."

Bobbitt, 35, was arrested Wednesday night by U.S. marshals in Philadelphia and remained in custody Thursday on probation detainers and a \$50,000 bond. A message was left with a previous attorney of Bobbitt's.

D'Amico, 39, and McClure, 28, surrendered to authorities Wednesday night and

Associated Press

were released. Their attorney said they have no comment.

All were charged with theft by deception and conspiracy to commit theft by deception. The charges carry prison time of up to 5 to 10 years.

Prosecutors began investigating after Bobbitt claimed he wasn't getting the money that had been raised on his behalf. He later sued the couple.

The prosecutor said "there's a good chance" the alleged fraud might not have been uncovered had Bobbitt not brought a civil suit earlier this year alleging that the couple mismanaged the funds.

The investigation began after the lawsuit was brought and parts of the group's story "didn't ring true," Coffina said.

In one text exchange in March 2018, McClure worried that she and D'Amico had less than \$10,000 remaining, but D'Amico wasn't concerned, Coffina said.

He was certain that a book deal they were pursuing would "dwarf" the money from the GoFundMe fundraiser and a few months later, when the dispute with Bobbitt became public, D'Amico was not dissuaded, according to the prosecutor. □

Florida man pleads not guilty in political pipe bombs case

By **JIM MUSTIAN**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Florida man accused of sending pipe bombs to prominent critics of President Donald Trump pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges carrying a potential penalty of life in prison.

Cesar Sayoc entered the plea through his lawyers during his appearance in Manhattan federal court.

U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff set a July 15, 2019, trial date.

The judge suggested earlier dates, but Sayoc's attorneys said they needed more time to prepare given the amount of discov-



This Aug. 30, 2015, file photo released by the Broward County Sheriff's office shows Cesar Sayoc in Miami.

Associated Press

ery in the case and a lack of staffing at the federal public defenders' office of

New York. Sayoc — who faces five federal counts, including use of a weapon of mass destruction — is accused of sending 16 improvised explosive devices through the U.S. mail to victims across the country. None of the devices exploded. Authorities said he targeted numerous Democrats, critics of Trump and CNN — a scare that heightened tensions before the crucial midterm elections. Federal prosecutors said authorities are still scouring surveillance video from the U.S. Postal Service and lining up experts to examine the explosive devices. They estimated the govern-

ment will need three weeks to present its evidence at Sayoc's trial.

Sayoc's mother said in a recent letter to ABC News her son grapples with mental illness, though she didn't provide any further details about his condition. But it's not clear whether Sayoc's attorneys intend to raise that defense in court.

Baumgartel declined to comment on her client's mental health after Thursday's hearing.

Sayoc was arrested on Oct. 26 in Plantation, Florida outside an auto parts store. He had been living in a van covered with stickers of Trump and showing images

of some of the president's opponents with crosshairs over their faces.

An improvised explosive mailed to former Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton in suburban Chappaqua, New York, contained a picture of Clinton and members of her family marked with a red "X," prosecutors say.

Others targeted by the mailings included former President Barack Obama, former Vice President Joe Biden, California Sen. Kamala Harris and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker. Packages were also mailed to CNN's offices in New York and Atlanta. □

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ARUBATODAY**SAVE TIME
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ONLINE****www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com****Inmate confesses to 90 deaths;
investigators corroborate 30****By DAVID WARREN**
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — A man convicted of three California murders and long suspected in numerous other deaths now claims he was involved in about 90 killings nationwide spanning nearly four decades, and investigators already have corroborated about a third of those, a Texas prosecutor said Thursday.

Ector County District Attorney Bobby Bland said 78-year-old Samuel Little was booked into jail this week following his indictment in the 1994 death of a Texas woman. Investigations are ongoing, but Little has provided details in more than 90 deaths dating to about 1970, Bland said. Little was brought to Texas in September, and investigators with law enforcement agencies in several states traveled to speak with him about unsolved homicides. "They're able to match up over 30 cases so far," Bland said. "So far we don't have any false information coming from him."

If the number of killings Little claims to have committed proves true, it would make him one of the most prolific killers in U.S. history. Ted Bundy confessed to 30 homicides from about 1974 to 1978. John Wayne Gacy killed at least 33 boys and young men in the 1970s.

Arguably one of the deadliest globally was an English general practitioner named Harold Shipman, who an investigative panel determined was responsible for the deaths of 250. He was convicted in 2000 in the deaths of 15.

During his 2014 trial in Los Angeles, prosecutors said Little was likely responsible

for at least 40 killings since 1980. Authorities at the time were looking for possible links to deaths in Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio and Texas.

Bland said Little recently provided details to Texas Ranger James Holland that showed Little was in Odessa, Texas, when Denise Christie Brothers was last seen in 1994. Her body was found about a month later in a vacant lot. Holland eventually elicited a confession from Little and admissions to dozens of other killings from about 1970 to 2005, Bland said.

The rangers are an elite team of investigators within the Texas Department of Public Safety. DPS did not respond to requests Thursday to speak with Holland. Little was being held without bond Thursday in the Ector County jail on a murder charge relating to Brothers' death. Jail records don't indicate whether he has an attorney. He has a court appearance scheduled for Nov. 26.

Little was brought to Texas for questioning in the case from California, where he was convicted in 2014 in the deaths years earlier of the three women in Los Angeles County. DNA evidence collected from old crime scenes was used to match samples of his stored in a criminal database.

Los Angeles cold-case detectives at the time suspected Little was a serial killer, a transient and former boxer who traveled the country preying on drug addicts, troubled women and others. His criminal history includes offenses committed in 24 states spread over 56 years — mostly as-

sault, burglary, armed robbery, shoplifting and drug violations.

Those detectives determined that Little often delivered a knockout punch to women and then proceeded to strangle them while masturbating, dumping the bodies and soon after leaving town.

Little, who often went by the name Samuel McDowell, grew up with his grandmother in Lorain, Ohio. His criminal history shows his first arrest came at age 16 on burglary charges.

For years he had denied to investigators in different states that he was responsible for any killings. Bland speculates that he finally



This undated photo provided by the Ector County Texas Sheriff's Office shows Samuel Little.

Associated Press

confessed after the appeals to his life sentence in California were ultimately rejected and he no longer had any reason to hide his role.

"People for years have been trying to get a confession out of him and James Holland is the one who finally got him to give that information," Bland said. □

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UK's defiant May tells critics it's her Brexit deal or chaos

By JILL LAWLESS
RAF CASERT
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Theresa May defied mounting calls to quit or change course Thursday over Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, warning that abandoning her Brexit plan would plunge the country into "deep and grave uncertainty."

Britain's long-simmering divisions over its future in the EU erupted into turmoil just a day after the government agreed to a divorce deal with the bloc. Two Cabinet ministers resigned and some lawmakers from May's own party called for her to be replaced. The crisis threatened to destroy the Brexit agreement, unseat the prime minister and send the U.K. hurtling toward the EU exit without a plan. In an evening news conference aimed at regaining some control, May said she believed "with every fiber of my being that the course I have set out is the right one for our country and all our people."



An anti-Brexit supporter holds a European flag by a banner across the street from the Houses of Parliament in London, Thursday Nov. 15, 2018.

"Am I going to see this through? Yes," she said. The hard-won agreement with the EU has infuriated pro-Brexit members of May's divided Conservative Party. They say the agreement, which calls for close trade ties between the U.K. and the bloc, would leave Britain a vassal

state, bound to EU rules it has no say in making.

May insisted that Brexit meant making "the right choices, not the easy ones" and urged lawmakers to support the deal "in the national interest."

But she was weakened by the resignation of two senior Cabinet ministers, including Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab. Hours after he sat in the meeting that approved the deal, Raab said he "cannot in good conscience" support it. Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey followed Raab out the door. She said in a letter that it is "no good trying to pretend to (voters) that this deal honors the result of the referendum when it is obvious to everyone that it doesn't." A handful of junior government ministers also quit, and leading pro-Brexit lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg called for a vote of no-confidence in May.

Rees-Mogg said May's deal "is not Brexit" because it would keep Britain in a customs union with the EU, potentially for an indefinite period. He said May was "losing the confidence of Conservative members of Parliament."

Rees-Mogg called for May to be replaced by a more firmly pro-Brexit politician, naming ex-Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, former

Brexit Secretary David Davis and Raab as potential successors. Under Conservative rules, a confidence vote in the leader is triggered if 15 percent of Conservative lawmakers — currently 48 — write a letter to the party's 1922 Committee of backbenchers, which oversees leadership votes. Only committee chairman Graham Brady knows for sure how many missives have been sent, but Rees-Mogg's letter is likely to spur others to do the same. If a confidence vote is held and May loses, it would trigger a party leadership contest in which any Conservative lawmaker — except her — could run. The turmoil is the latest eruption in the Conservative Party's long-running civil war over Europe. Ever since Britain joined what was then the European Economic Community in 1973, the party has been split between supporters and opponents of Britain's membership. In 2016, then-Prime Minister David Cameron called a referendum "to settle this European question in British politics" once and for all. He was confident the country would vote to remain, but voters opted by 52 percent to 48 percent to quit the EU, a result that left both the Conservatives and the country more divided than ever.

Cameron's successor, May, has been struggling ever since to deliver a Brexit that satisfies those who want to leave, reconciles those wanting to remain and doesn't rock the economy — a near-impossible balancing act.

Thursday's political mayhem prompted a big fall in the value of the pound, which was trading 1.5 percent lower at \$1.2797 as investors fretted that Britain could crash out of the EU in March without a deal. That could see tariffs on British exports, border checks and restrictions on travelers and workers — a potentially toxic combination for businesses. Business groups have warned that if there is no deal by next month, companies will have to enact contingency plans that could include cutting jobs, stockpiling goods, and relocating production overseas. May and her supporters say the alternatives to her deal — leaving the bloc without a deal or a second vote on Brexit — are not realistic options. If the agreement was abandoned, "nobody can know for sure the consequences that will follow," May said. "It would be to take a path of deep and grave uncertainty when the British people just want us to get on with it." News that a deal had been struck after a year and a half of negotiations was welcomed in Brussels, and EU chief Donald Tusk called for a Nov. 25 summit of leaders so they can rubber-stamp the agreement.

The deal requires the consent of the European Parliament, whose chief Brexit official, Guy Verhofstadt, welcomed it as "the best agreement we could obtain." It also needs approval from Britain's Parliament before the U.K. leaves the bloc on March 29 — and even if May survives as leader, the chances of that look slim.

Her Conservative government doesn't have a parliamentary majority, and relies on the support of the Democratic Unionist Party from Northern Ireland. □

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Sri Lankan lawmakers fight in Parliament over PM dispute

By **BHARATHA MALLA-WARACHI**

Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

— As Sri Lanka's president met with opposition lawmakers over a no-confidence vote against his newly appointed prime minister, thousands rallied in support of the prime minister he ousted, burning coffins representing what they called the death of democracy in the Indian Ocean nation.

Earlier Thursday, rival lawmakers exchanged blows in Sri Lanka's Parliament after disputed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa claimed the speaker had no authority to remove him from office by a voice vote. That happened Wednesday when lawmakers convened for the first time since a political crisis began Oct. 26 with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's ouster. Speaker Karu Jayasuriya



In this image made from video, Sri Lanka's lawmakers scuffle at the parliament in Colombo, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018.

told the chamber that the country had no government and there was no prime minister. Rajapaksa disagreed, saying "a vote should have been taken. Such important motions should not be passed by a voice vote."

He accused the speaker of partiality toward his party, the United National Party, led by Wickremesinghe. Rajapaksa also repeated his call for new elections, suggesting that it was the best way to resolve the crisis.

The brawl erupted after the opposition asked for a vote on Rajapaksa's statement, with some lawmakers supporting him gathering in the middle of the house while others rushed Jayasuriya, tussling for his microphone. Rajapaksa ally Dilum

Associated Press

Amunugama was taken to a hospital with injuries to his hand incurred while trying to take the microphone from the speaker's table. Several dozen lawmakers in white robes in the 225-member house engaged in the melee, some throwing water bottles, pitching trash cans and landing kicks. Those opposed to Rajapaksa surrounded Jayasuriya to protect him. The commotion went on for about half an hour before Jayasuriya adjourned the house. "The speaker was under complete siege, he came very close to being physically assaulted by MPs supporting Rajapaksa," said Chandani Kirinde, a senior correspondent of the Sunday Times, a weekly paper in Sri Lanka. "While clashes have happened in the house, this is probably the first time the speaker came under so much intimidation and abuse." □

Thousands demand resignation of Czech PM over fraud scandal



Several thousands of demonstrators gathers to demand resignation of Czech Republic's Prime Minister Andrej Babis at the Wenceslas square in Prague, Czech Republic, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — Thousands of Czechs are rallying in Prague to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Andrej Babis over a fraud scandal.

Babis faces charges that he has misused EU subsidies for a farm he transferred to his family members, including his son, Andrej Babis, Jr. Babis denies wrongdoing. The Czech leader been under increased pressure this week after his son told an online news portal he was deliberately kept in Crimea to avoid being questioned

in the case. Babis denies that, saying his son — who lives in Switzerland and is mentally ill — was there voluntarily.

More protests are scheduled for Saturday. Babis' coalition government will face a confi-

dence vote in Parliament's lower house over the scandal.

Parliament's upper house on Thursday asked Babis to step down until the investigation is completed. □

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Saudi prosecutor seeks death penalty in Khashoggi killing

By **AYA BATRAWY**

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia's

top prosecutor said Thursday he would seek the death penalty for five men charged with the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey, while the United States moved to sanction 17 Saudi officials it said were involved in the slaying.

The Saudi announcement appeared aimed at distancing the killers and their operation from the kingdom's leadership, including Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, amid a global outcry over the writer's death.

Also on Thursday, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said the crown prince had "absolutely" nothing to do with Khashoggi's death.

The U.S. Treasury Department, meanwhile, announced it was imposing sanctions on 17 Saudi officials who it said were responsible for or complicit in the killing. Among those targeted for sanctions are Saud al-Qahtani, who was one of the crown prince's closest aides, and Mohammed al-Otaibi, the diplomat in charge of the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul where Khashoggi was killed Oct. 2. Also named is Maher Mutreb, who was part of the crown prince's entourage on trips abroad.

With the kingdom facing mounting international pressure, prosecutors have pointed the finger at some members of the crown prince's inner circle



In this Friday, Nov. 2, 2018 file photo, a video image of Hatice Cengiz, fiancée of slain Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, is played during an event to remember Khashoggi, who was killed inside the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul on Oct. 2, in Washington.

Associated Press

but stopped short of accusing them of ordering Khashoggi's killing. Those closest to the prince are instead accused of ordering Khashoggi's forced return in an operation that the Saudis allege went awry.

In a news conference, Sheikh Shalan al-Shalan, the deputy attorney general, said the killing was ordered by an individual whom he did not identify but said was responsible for negotiating Khashoggi's return back to Saudi Arabia from Istanbul. The individual was part of a 15-man team that was made up of negotiators, intelligence officers and logistics officials.

Al-Shalan said that on the morning of Oct. 2, the leader of the negotiating team

saw that he would not be able to force Khashoggi to return, "so he decided to kill him in the moment."

This appears to contradict a previous Saudi statement quoting Turkish intelligence as saying the killing had been premeditated.

Chief prosecutor Saud Al-Mojeb said that of the 21 people in custody, 11 have been indicted and referred to trial, and that he would seek the death penalty against five of the suspects. Khashoggi's killers set their plans in motion on Sept. 29, the prosecutor said, adding that the killers drugged and killed the writer in the consulate before dismembering the body and handing it over for disposal by an unidentified local col-

laborator. The body has not been found.

It's not unusual for a Saudi prosecutor to announce he would seek the death penalty before a trial.

The latest Saudi account failed to appease officials in Turkey, who insist the killing and its cover-up were carried out by the highest levels of government.

"We did not find some of his explanations to be satisfactory," Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said after the Saudi announcement.

"Those who gave the order, the real perpetrators need to be revealed. This process cannot be closed down in this way," he added.

The Turkish government is demanding the suspects

be put on trial in Turkey.

The death of Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist who had been critical of the crown prince, sent shock waves around the world and led analysts and officials to believe a sensitive operation of this magnitude could not have been carried out without the prince's knowledge.

Hours after the prosecutor's announcement, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir told reporters the crown prince had nothing to do with the killing.

"His royal highness the crown prince has nothing to do with this issue," he said.

Al-Jubeir said the kingdom is investigating and holding those responsible to account "to make sure this doesn't happen again."

"Sometimes mistakes happen ... sometimes people exceed their authority," he said. Through a series of orchestrated leaks, including audio of the killing shared with Western intelligence, Turkey has tried to keep pressure on the crown prince, who sees Turkey as a regional rival.

Turkey alleges that among those sent to Istanbul was a forensics expert.

In an apparent reference to this specialist, al-Shalan said the organizer of the operation called on a specialist to be part of the team to erase evidence if Khashoggi needed to be forcibly returned to Saudi Arabia. Prosecutors said this specialist was working without the direct knowledge of his boss. □

Morocco unveils Africa's first ever high speed train line

By **AMIRA EL MASAITI**

Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI have inaugurated Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa.

Known as the LGV, it will connect the economic hubs of Tangier and Casablanca in 2 hours 10 minutes at a speed of up to 320 kph (199 mph) instead of almost 5 hours on a regular train.

The Moroccan and French lead-

ers boarded the train in Tangier after they were handed tickets by Director General of the National Railway Office Mohamed Rabie Khlie, according to State agency MAP.

They were expected to reach the country's capital, Rabat, 1 hour and 15 minutes later.

The \$2 billion project was launched in September 2011 by the king and Nicolas Sarkozy, then president of France.

France financed 51 percent of the project, Morocco 28 percent

and the remaining 21 percent was provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Macron's office said the Moroccan line is an international showcase for the French-made high-speed train. Morocco bought 12 such trains from French manufacturer Alstom.

The king named the first line Al Boraq after a mythical winged creature that transported the prophets to the heavens.

Morocco's railway office expects

6 million passengers on the line in the first three years of operation.

While the Moroccan government and businesses praised the project as a key achievement in developing the country's infrastructure, the line has sparked controversy for its high cost.

Critics say that Morocco should be investing in education and health instead.

The criticism gained strength mid-October when a train derailed, killing seven people and injuring more than 100. □

Verdicts on Khmer Rouge leaders may be tribunal's last gasp

By SOPHENG CHEANG
GRANT PECK
Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The U.N.-backed tribunal judging the criminal responsibility of former Khmer Rouge leaders for the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians will issue verdicts Friday in the latest — and perhaps last — of such trials.

Nuon Chea, 92, and Khieu Samphan, 87, are the last two surviving senior leaders of the radical communist group that brutally ruled Cambodia in the late 1970s. They are already serving life sentences after being convicted in a previous 2011-2014 trial of crimes against humanity connected with forced transfers and disappearances of masses of people. The proceedings against them were split into two successive trials for fear that the aging defendants might die before any verdict was reached in a single, more comprehensive trial and foreclose the opportunity for any sort of justice. The fear was justified — two co-defendants died before the trial was completed.

On Friday, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan will be judged on additional charges of crimes against humanity, such as murder, extermination, enslavement, torture and persecution on political, racial, and



In this Oct. 31, 2013, file photo released by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, Khieu Samphan, left, former Khmer Rouge head of state, and Nuon Chea, right, who was the Khmer Rouge's chief ideologist and No. 2 leader, sit in the court hall at the U.N.-backed war crimes tribunal in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Associated Press

religious grounds; genocide, for the killings of members of the Vietnamese and Cham ethnic groups; and more breaches of the Geneva Conventions, including willful killing, torture or inhumane treatment. As members of the Khmer Rouge leadership under the late Pol Pot, they have been prosecuted under the legal doctrine of joint criminal enterprise, which holds individuals responsible for actions attributed to a group to which they belong.

Cases launched against

four additional, middle-ranking Khmer Rouge officials have been scuttled or frozen and are unlikely to be revived.

If the current trial is the last staged by the U.N.-assisted international tribunal — officially called the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia — it will have convicted three individuals at a cost of more than \$300 million.

The Khmer Rouge seized power in 1975 after a bloody five-year civil war. They immediately attempted a radical transformation

of Cambodia into a peasant society, emptying cities and forcing the population to work the land.

They backed up their rule with ruthless elimination of perceived enemies, and were driven from power in early 1979 by an invasion from neighboring Vietnam, which had suffered border attacks from Khmer Rouge forces. Although atrocities were carried out on a massive scale, political realities — specifically the repeated demands by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen that no more suspects be

prosecuted — appear to preclude further cases being pursued by the tribunal. Hun Sen insists that further prosecutions could cause unrest.

In addition to Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, the tribunal can lay claim to only one other prosecution, resulting in the 2010 conviction of Kaing Guek Eav, alias Duch, who as head of the Khmer Rouge prison system ran the infamous Tuol Sleng torture center in Phnom Penh.

Hun Sen himself was a mid-level Khmer Rouge commander before defecting while the group was still in power, and several senior members of his ruling Cambodian People's Party share similar backgrounds. He helped cement his political control by making alliances with other former Khmer Rouge commanders. The ground rules under which the tribunal was established in 2005 are complicated, providing for hybrid courts pairing Cambodian judges and prosecutors with international counterparts. Cambodian court officials, known for their loyalty to Hun Sen's government, are in a position to base their judgments on the tribunal's inexact guidelines limiting prosecutions to senior leaders or persons considered "most responsible" for atrocities, or simply cease cooperation. □



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Cuba ends medical exchange program with Brazil

By **MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN**
MARCELO de SOUSA
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba said Wednesday that it is ending a program that sent thousands of government doctors to underserved regions of Brazil in exchange for hundreds of millions in badly needed hard currency.

The end of the "Mas Medicos," or "More Doctors," program signals a sharp deterioration in relations between communist Cuba and Brazil, which just elected far-right presidential candidate Jair Bolsonaro. He takes office Jan. 1.

Cuba made the announcement after Bolsonaro said the program overseen by the World Health Organization could only continue if doctors directly received their salaries from Brazil, and were able to bring their families with



In this Aug. 30, 2013 file photo, Cuban doctors observe a dental procedure during a training session at a health clinic in Brasilia, Brazil.

Associated Press

them during their assignments, among other conditions. The Cuban government

generally keeps most of the salaries of state employees working abroad as part of the socialist state's

"international missions." Participants also are generally barred from bringing family members in a measure that

critics say is designed to prevent doctors from emigrating.

"Mas Medicos" started five years ago under leftist President Dilma Rousseff.

Cuba said roughly 20,000 doctors saw millions of patients in areas such as the Amazon rainforest and slums of major cities.

Cuba maintains similar missions in 67 other countries but "Mas Medicos" was one of the largest and most important, serving as a link between the cash-strapped island and South America's largest economy.

"Cubans have provided a valuable service to the Brazilian people with dignity, deep sensitivity, professionalism, dedication and altruism," Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel wrote on Twitter.

"Such humane acts should be respected and defended." □

Argentine Senate approves austerity budget for IMF deal



Argentine senators debate 2019 budget proposals in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

Associated Press
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina
(AP) — Argentine lawmakers approved an austerity budget for 2019 on Thursday, cutting social spending and raising debt payments to meet conditions for expanded financing from the International Monetary Fund.

The budget approved Thursday by the Senate projects a 0.5 percent slide in GDP and a 23 percent inflation rate by the end of 2019, down from an expected 44 percent this year. It was approved earlier by the lower house.

The budget aims to cut the primary deficit before debt payments to zero — down from 2.6 percent of GDP this year. Critics say it slashes social spending by 35 percent once inflation is accounted for. The expected blow to education, culture and housing outlays prompted street protests in the capital during the debate. It also calls for a 50 percent increase in debt service payments in peso terms. The cuts were called for in a \$6.3 billion addition to a \$50 billion IMF credit line approved in June.

IMF spokesman Gerry Rice told reporters in Washington that passage of the budget law was a "very positive step" that "points to a clear commitment by the Argentine authorities and a broad spectrum of Argentina's political forces to strengthen the country's economic policies."

Rice also said that IMF chief Christine Lagarde is likely to meet Argentine President Mauricio Macri during the Nov. 30-Dec. 1 Group of 20 summit of world leaders that will take place in Buenos Aires. □

LOCAL



Sinterklaas is on his way to Aruba

ORANJESTAD — It's the time of the year again all the children of Aruba haven been waiting for. The arrival of Sinterklaas, November 18th. The holy man coming all the way from Spain bringing gifts for all the good children of Aruba. It surely is an exciting time for the kids.

Based on St. Nicolas, the patron saint of children, Sinterklaas (the name is a contraction of Sint Nikolaas) is a legendary Christmas figure celebrated in the Netherlands. Although similar to Santa Claus in that he is an older man with a full, white beard who wears red, Sinterklaas is a more serious figure, donning a bishop's headdress and carrying a long, curled shepherd's staff.

The Dutch celebrate the Feast of Sinterklaas honoring the life of St. Nicholas, and although St. Nicholas is always shown wearing his bishop's attire, the Dutch tend to see him as a kindly old man, rather than as a



Catholic saint. The result is that Sinterklaas is celebrated by Dutch people of all ages and beliefs, without any real religious connotations.

The Feast of Sinterklaas

This real-life Santa Claus was born to wealthy parents in the third century in Patara (the area was Greek at the time, but is now part of Turkey). He spent his life giving away his

money to the poor and doing good deeds. He died on December 6th, and it is this date that is commemorated—the Feast of Sinterklaas is held on Dec. 5th and 6th. The holiday, consisting of St. Nicholas's Eve and St. Nicholas's Day, is observed by exchanging gifts and chocolate letters (of the recipient's initial). It is also customary to make good-natured fun of your loved ones, by way of humorous poetry written by the giver, and offering the infamous "surprise," which is a (homemade) gag gift that hides another present inside. In Holland, it is more common to give presents on Sinterklaas than at Christmas, which remains a day to spend with family and attend church. The feast is celebrated annually with the giving of gifts on St. Nicholas' Eve (5 December) in the Netherlands and on the morning of 6 December, Saint Nicholas Day, in Belgium, Luxembourg and northern France (French Flanders, Lorraine and Artois). The tradition is also celebrated in territories of the former Dutch Empire, including Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and Suriname.

Continued on Page 14



Sinterklaas is on his way to Aruba

Continued from Page 13

Zwarte Piet

Sinterklaas is assisted by many mischievous helpers with black faces and colourful Moorish dresses. These companions are called Zwarte Piet ("Black Pete"). Zwarte Piet first appeared in print as the nameless servant of Saint Nicholas in Sint-Nikolaas en zijn knecht ("St. Nicholas and His Servant/Apprentice"), published in 1850 by Amsterdam schoolteacher Jan Schenkman; however, the tradition appears to date back at least as far as the early

19th Century.[4]

Zwarte Piet's colourful dress is based on 16th-century noble attire, with a ruff (lace collar) and a feathered cap. He is typically depicted carrying a bag which contains candy for the children. The Zwarte Pieten toss their candy around, a tradition supposedly originating in the story of Saint Nicholas saving three young girls from prostitution by tossing golden coins through their window at night to pay their dowries.



The Foods of Sinterklaas

At the Feast of Sinterklaas, the Dutch indulge in a variety of sweets including cookies, candies, and bread. Traditional recipes are speculaas (spiced cookies), kruidnoten (mini spiced cookies, also called ginger nuts), pepernoten (small aniseed flavored honey cookies), taai-tai (aniseed and honey flavored figurines), almond filled pastries, chocolate letters, and duivekater (a festive sweet bread). Mulled wine, called

bischopswijn, is also enjoyed.

Waving a Carrot

Dutch children believe that Sinterklaas writes down whether they've been naughty or nice in his red book. Sinterklaas rides a white horse, and the children put carrots in their shoes for his horse, hoping St. Nicholas will exchange them for presents if they were good.

Sinterklaas Vs. Santa

It is said that Sinterklaas was the precursor of Santa

Claus. Historians believe that Dutch and German settlers took the tradition with them to America. There, his Catholic garb was gradually transformed into the jolly non-sectarian red suit with the white fur trim

we are all so familiar with. Additionally, his lithe frame gave way to a well-padded potbelly, and his trusty white steed was traded in for a troupe of reindeer. Either way, both Sinterklaas and Santa Claus stand for the generosity of spirit and kindness to children.

Sinterklaas will be arriving in Aruba on Sunday November 18th 2018 at the Cruise Terminal of the Aruba Ports Authority at 9 AM. He will continue in a caravan going down the L.G. Smith Boulevard till the Plaza Libertador Betico Croes where a big welcome party awaits.

There will be lots of singing, dancing, storytelling, a show presented by Sinterklaas' helpers and much much more. Come and enjoy a family day and let your children meet Sinterklaas and his Black Pieten. □



A Wisdom Tidbit

In our pursuit of money, power, making ends meet, happiness, etc., we may be just going too fast and there may be a need to slow down. When one recognizes this type of insanity that we may be living, one may have a chance to transform their lives, and this is a divine choice that we only can make.

Our circumstances that we experience has been arranged by life for us to awaken into our most productive and joyous self. Truly whatever arises in life has been tailor made for you and within each experience is a hidden blessing that needs to emerge from the inner chaos onto our lives. All of life is here to greet you as a faithful friend,

always by your side for your own maturity, maybe we can recognize this to be true after getting hit over our head through the darkest of days in order for our awakening to commence.

The track that we run on is made for us, no one else can run on our track, we alone need to experience whatever comes along this track which has been made for our spiritual maturity. Nothing is a coincidence but a synchronicity. The biggest mistakes that we make is actually for one's own benefit. Everything is turned to one's advantage when they meet seemed failure, turning or transforming it to success. Life is shaped from inside out and not from outside in. □

Suresh Mirchumal is a spiritual writer. "Well, you can categorize it like that, although I don't call myself one. These thoughts come in effortlessly." His aim is in a way to reach out to whoever gets inspired or has an eye opening event within them that may transcend their current state of consciousness. "Or let's say current emotional state too. If one in a thousand benefits, that is already great." Due to the current world state, lots of struggles and stresses, we seem to lose touch with that inner peace that we long for, Suresh explains. "I wish to ease that through these small articles or tidbits." You will find his tidbits in Aruba Today, like a sunray of the day. If you wish to make use of Suresh his services like meditation or just a talk, please email to: TheDimensionofSilence@gmail.com. You can also like his Facebook page Dimension of Silence.



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Honoring at the Marriott Ocean Club

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Kimberly Richardson of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and Friendly visitor of Aruba as Emerald Ambassador. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, Transportation, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20 and more consecutive years.

The Honorees are Mr. Volker and Mrs. Ursula Bouvain from Germany. Honored as Distinguished Visitors. They have been coming to Aruba for 10 consecutive years.

Also honored were John and Linda McCarthy from New Jersey. Honored as Goodwill Ambassadors, who have been coming to Aruba for 20 consecutive years.

Both couples stated they love coming to Aruba for the lovely people, the weather and they always feel right at home here.

Kimberly together with representatives of the Marriott Ocean Club presented the certificate to the honorees and handed over some presents to them and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □



Walk for Angels

ORANJESTAD — Micky's Foundation, together with Zinnia Foundation, will be holding the Walk for Angels this Sunday, November 18th, 2018. The proceeds from the Walk will contribute to the foundation in order to provide the special needed little angels of Aruba with a better life.

Walk for Angels is a fun walk for the entire family. The purpose of the event is to collect enough funds for Micky's Foundation to continue providing free therapy for the children with special needs in Aruba. They have partnered with Zinnia Foundation for this event to also bring awareness of the danger of driving under the

influence of alcohol. Both children of the founders of both foundations have been victims of drivers under the influence of alcohol. They want to shine a spotlight on the lifetime of damage and hurt this brings to families.

Micky's Foundation

Micky's Foundation aims to reach out to parents with children in need of special care and education. It is an initiative by and for parents of Aruba.

Their objective as parents is to organize specialized and intensive therapy in the homes of the children, for free.

The foundation, to date, has provided therapy for 72 children. Since their start in December of 2014, they have managed to organize 11 projects with the help of specialized therapist from the Netherlands. In short, Micky's Foundation



is about: Free therapy, specialized therapy, and intensive therapy, continuity of therapy, home therapy and transmitting knowledge.

Zinnia Foundation

The foundation was created with the purpose of bringing awareness to the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol. Zinnia, who was the daughter of the founders, was killed by a drunken police officer.

The event will be held on Sunday, November 18th 2018 in Linear Park. This is the walk way along the fence of the airport. The event starts at 5 PM. So please take time and make a donation to this wonderful cause, and at the same time; enjoy some quality time with your loved ones.

For more information on this event visit the Facebook pages Micky's Foundation Aruba or Fundacion Zinnia. □



1st Annual "Linking Orange" Conference



ORANJESTAD — Are you an artist? A creative? A person that has passion for Arts & Culture? Are you looking to gain more knowledge about the Cultural and Creative Industry and its socio-economic impact on our society? Then this fantastic conference is for you! This year's topic: Placing Culture and Creativity at the heart of the Aruban sustainable development.

This annual conference will be the most important gathering for leaders in the Cultural and Creative Industry, decision-makers, policy-makers, artistic and creative amateurs and professionals, those who are active on the cultural, social and educational field and also entrepreneurs from the private sector. Architecture, visual and performing arts, crafts, film, de-

sign, publishing, research and development, games and toys, fashion, music, advertising, software, TV, radio and video games are some of the sectors that make up the Orange Economy, as defined by John Howkins, one of the most influential researchers on the topic.

The "Orange Economy" or "Creative Economy" has

no single definition. It is an evolving concept which builds on the interplay between human creativity and ideas and intellectual property, knowledge and technology. Essentially it is the knowledge-based economic activities upon which the 'creative industries' are based. Today, the creative industries are among the most dynamic sectors in the world economy providing new opportunities for developing countries to leapfrog into emerging high-growth areas of the world economy. Especially the Latin American and Caribbean region.

During this conference they will be providing empowering and inspirational information about how you can take action and use Arts, Culture and Creativity to develop a new economic pillar for Aruba.

The inspirational and knowledgeable local speakers are:

Zetsia Ponson- Secretary General to Aruba National



Commission for UNESCO
Anky Vrolijk- Director at Fundacion Museo
Renwick Heronimo- Curator at Fundacion Museo
Isha Tapias-Kock- Aruba Product Specialist at A.T.A.
Gerald Kock PH. D- Data advocate for sustainable Development Goals
Thais Franken- Bachelor of Arts
Edward Erasmus- Head of Operations as Free Zone Aruba

Be part of the movement that is pioneering the efforts to spark and stimulate a booming creative economy for Aruba. Find out more about this event at <http://gocultura.org/conference/>

Tickets Available at Go Cultura Foundation's Office J.G. Emanstraat 24 or call +297 583 0808 □

SPORTS



In this Sept. 29, 2018, file photo, Tampa Bay Rays starter Blake Snell reacts to his 10th strikeout of the night and the final pitch of his season. Snell was announced as the winner of the American League Cy Young Award on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

Mets' deGrom gets Cy with record-low wins; Snell takes AL

By JAKE SEINER

NEW YORK (AP) — After a season marred by narrow defeats, Jacob deGrom became a runaway winner.

The New York Mets ace easily won the National League Cy Young Award on Wednesday night, a reward for a historically fruitless season in Flushing. The right-hander had just 10 victories, the fewest ever by a Cy Young-winning starter.

The AL prize also reflected a change in voters' values, with Blake Snell of the Tampa Bay Rays narrowly beating out past winners Justin Verlander and Corey Kluber for his first Cy Young. Snell pitched just 180 2/3 innings, fewest ever by a Cy Young-winning starter. Over full seasons, Snell is the second starter to win the award with fewer than 200 innings after Clayton Kershaw logged 198 1/3 in 2014.

Continued on Page 22



LeBron James has monster game, passes Wilt Chamberlain on all-time scoring list

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, shoots as Portland Trail Blazers forward Zach Collins defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018, in Los Angeles.

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Federer advances to record-extending 15th ATP Finals semi

By **SAM JOHNSTON**

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Roger Federer is peaking at the right time — again.

The six-time champion advanced to the last four of the ATP Finals for a record-extending 15th time with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over Kevin Anderson on Thursday.

Federer, chasing the 100th title of his career, needed only a set to advance and produced his best performance at the season-ending tournament to end the round-robin stages with a 2-1 win-loss record.

"I've always tried to pace myself in a way ... that I would have something left in the tank," Federer said. "I'm happy that this is another week like this. (It) didn't look like it maybe 72 hours ago."

Dominic Thiem's 6-1, 6-4 victory over Kei Nishikori earlier had left Federer with a modest task and ensured that Anderson became the first South African ever to reach the semifinals.

Federer looked as if he was about to give up a break advantage for the second time in as many service games when he dropped

to 0-40 attempting to close out the opening set at 5-4, but the 20-time Grand Slam champion found his first serve when it mattered most to hold.

Anderson hadn't faced a break point in winning his first two matches. Federer, though, broke him twice more in the second set to claim top spot in the group and likely avoid a semifinal meeting with top-ranked Novak Djokovic.

"That was a little bit disappointing because I felt like I played some really good tennis so far," Anderson said. "But the plus side is I'm through to the semis. That feels great."

Having struggled in an opening loss to Nishikori and relied mainly on his serve when defeating Thiem, Federer finally found some timing with his ground-strokes to apply consistent pressure on Anderson's serve.

The previously impenetrable Anderson serve wilted, with two double faults gifting Federer a 4-3 lead. Much to the surprise — and disappointment — of the partisan crowd at the O2 Arena, the Swiss great



Switzerland's Roger Federer plays a return to South Africa's Kevin Anderson during their ATP World Tour Finals men's singles tennis match at the O2 arena in London, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

handed the break straight back with a series of errors. However, Federer steadied himself and made a delicate drop volley to break once more in the following game, before eventually closing out the set to maintain his record of having only missed the semifinals once in 16 appearances at the tournament.

Federer lost just four points on serve in the second set.

He used a backhand slice to break for 4-3 and the same shot brought up two match points at 3-5, 15-40. "I think I had an aggressive-playing mindset," Federer said. "A good variation as well with my slice."

Having saved a match point on his way to securing a five-set quarterfinal victory over Federer at Wimbledon, Anderson threatened another comeback as he

won a 21-shot rally to get back to deuce, but there was to be no repeat this time. Two more Anderson forehand errors ended the match and Federer won the group by virtue of their head-to-head record.

With Djokovic clear favorite to top his group, which concludes Friday, Federer has boosted his chances of avoiding the in-form Serb until the final. □

Pulisic back as U.S. loses 3-0 at England; no goal for Rooney

By **ROB HARRIS**

AP Global Soccer Writer

LONDON (AP) — Christian Pulisic played just his second match with the U.S. national team in 13 months, and the Americans failed to muster much of an attack in a 3-0 loss to England on Thursday night that marked Wayne Rooney's farewell with the Three Lions.

Jesse Lingard and Trent Alexander-Arnold scored in a 104-second second span midway through the first half, just after Pulisic was denied by goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, and Callum Wilson beat American goalkeeper Brad Guzan in the 77th minute. The United States is 0-3 and has been outscored 7-0 in three matches at old and

new Wembley.

Rooney, who joined Major League Soccer's D.C. United in July, entered in the 58th minute in his 120th international appearance, the most among England outfield players. The best chance for the 33-year-old striker was in stoppage time, when his low shot was saved by Guzan to the frustration of a crowd of 68,155. His finished with an England record 53 goals.

U.S. center backs John Brooks and Matt Miazga had trouble closing down England, a World Cup semifinal, and the Americans dropped to 4-3-4 under interim coach Dave Sarachan going into Sarachan's likely finale, against Italy on Tuesday



England's Fabian Delph, right, and England's Dele Alli, left, and United States Christian Pulisic, center, vie for the ball during the international friendly soccer match between England and the United States at Wembley stadium, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018.

Associated Press

at Genk, Belgium. Pulisic, now 20, is the top player on a rebuilding American team that does not have a competitive match until the CONCACAF Gold Cup in June. Since the loss at Trinidad

and Tobago last October that ended a streak of seven straight World Cup appearances for the U.S., Pulisic had played just once for his country, in a May exhibition against Bolivia near his home in

Chester, Pennsylvania. He showed his speed in the first half, breaking in alone on goal, but Pickford was quick off his line. This marked the first time Pulisic played together with midfielders Weston McKennie, Tim Weah and Tyler Adams, who entered during the second half. After a giveaway by Pulisic, England went ahead in the 25th minute when Dele Alli took the ball into the corner and passed to Lingard the top of the penalty area. Lingard took a touch as Miazga failed to close him down, then lofted the ball to the far corner over Guzan's outstretched arm. Wilson dribbled into the penalty area in the 27th at Brooks and Miazga. □

Blackhawks end 8-game skid, beat Blues 1-0

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Jeremy Colliton got his first win as an NHL coach when Corey Crawford made 28 saves to help the Chicago Blackhawks beat the St. Louis Blues 1-0 on Wednesday night, stopping an eight-game losing streak. Chicago's slide began with a 7-3 loss at St. Louis on Oct. 27, and Colliton took over after Joel Quenneville was fired on Nov. 6. The Blackhawks then dropped his first three games behind the bench before shutting down the Blues in the opener of a three-game homestand.

It was Crawford's first shutout in more than a year and No. 24 for his career. He missed most of last year and the start of this season because of a concussion.

Chicago got the game's only goal when it caught a break after St. Louis star Vladimir Tarasenko was penalized for hooking in the second period. Jonathan Toews set up Brent Seabrook for an open look that was stopped by Jake Allen, but Blues defenseman Jay Bouwmeester kicked it into the net at 4:05.

Allen finished with 18 saves for St. Louis, which has dropped two in a row.

JETS 3, CAPITALS 1

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Ben Chiarot scored the tiebreaking goal with 7:09 left in the third period to lead Winnipeg.

Mark Scheifele had a power-play score for Winnipeg, and Kyle Connor added an empty-netter to seal the victory. Connor Hellebuyck made 27 saves for the Jets, who've won three straight in their four-game homestand.

Jakub Vrana scored for Washington, and Copley stopped 21 shots.

The Capitals were coming off a 5-2 win over Minnesota on Tuesday in the opener of a four-game road trip.

Copley was in net for that win and had to quickly get ready for this game because starter Braden Holtby was a late-day scratch with an undisclosed upper-body injury. University of Manitoba women's goalie coach Gavin McHale, 31, was tapped to be Washington's emergency backup.

AVALANCHE 6, BRUINS 3

DENVER (AP) — Nathan MacKinnon scored the tiebreaking goal with 10:58 remaining, Semyon Varlamov made 20 saves and Colorado rallied past Boston.

MacKinnon sent a wrist shot by Jaroslav Halak after receiving a pass from Mikko Rantanen as the Avalanche rallied from a two-goal, second-period deficit. Colorado scored four goals in the third, with Tyson Jost and Alexander Kerfoot also scoring after Matt Calvert tied it earlier in the period.

Rantanen and Gabriel Landeskog had goals as well.

Jake DeBrusk scored twice for the Bruins in the opener of a four-game trip. Halak finished with 19 saves.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 5, DUCKS 0

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Cody Eakin scored twice, Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 29 shots for his third shutout of the season, and Vegas matched its season-high scoring total. Alex Tuch and Nick Holden each had a goal and an assist, Tomas Hyka also scored and Max Pacioretty added two assists for the Golden Knights. Fleury got his 412th career victory and 51st career shutout, moving into a tie with four others for 24th all-time. John Gibson started for Anaheim and made gave up three goals on 12 shots before being pulled at 7:19 of the second period. Ryan Miller came on and stopped 11 of the 13 shots he faced. □



Chicago Blackhawks coach Jeremy Colliton, center, talks to his team during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the St. Louis Blues, Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018, in Chicago. The Blackhawks won 1-0.

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Pistons beat Raptors 106-104 in Casey's return to Toronto

By The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Reggie Bullock made the winning shot as time expired and the Detroit Pistons rallied from a 19-point deficit to beat the Toronto Raptors 106-104 on Wednesday night, giving coach Dwane Casey a victory over his former team.

Blake Griffin had 30 points and 12 rebounds, Reggie Jackson and Langston Galloway each scored 13 points and Stanley Johnson had 12 for the Pistons. They had lost six of eight.

Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points and Pascal Siakam and Greg Monroe each had 17 for the Raptors. They have lost consecutive home games after a 7-0 start. Toronto (12-3) also failed to match the best start in franchise history. The Raptors went 13-2 to begin the 2014-15 season.

Toronto had won six straight over the Pistons, and nine of the previous 11 meetings.

LAKERS 126, TRAIL BLAZERS 117

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James had a season-high 44 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, passing Wilt Chamberlain for fifth place on the NBA's career scoring list and leading Los Angeles over Portland.

James scored 28 points in the second half and vaulted past Chamberlain on a



Detroit Pistons guard Reggie Jackson (1) looks to the basket as Toronto Raptors forward OG Anunoby (3) defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018, in Toronto.

Associated Press

three-point play with 3:55 to go, finishing the night with 31,425 points.

James also fell just short of his 75th career triple-double during his most impressive performance since joining the Lakers in the off-season.

But while James delivered a dazzling performance in Los Angeles' fourth straight victory, it wasn't all good news for the Lakers (8-6). Afterward, coach Luke Walton said Rajon Rondo broke his hand during the game.

The veteran point guard

will be sidelined for at least a few weeks.

Damian Lillard had 31 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds, and CJ McCollum scored 23 in the Trail Blazers' first road loss to the Lakers since Feb. 22, 2013, ending a nine-game streak at Staples Center. Portland has lost two straight to the Lakers after winning 16 in a row.

JaVale McGee scored 20 points and Brandon Ingram added 17 in the Lakers' sixth win in seven games.

GRIZZLIES 116, BUCKS 113 MILWAUKEE (AP)

— Marc Gasol scored 29 points, Mike Conley added 26 and Memphis used a late 15-2 run to hand Milwaukee its first home loss of the season.

After losing a 15-point lead in the third quarter, Memphis surged ahead again late and held on with key baskets from Conley. With the shot clock winding down, Conley hit a turnaround jumper in the middle of the lane for a 113-109 lead with 26 seconds left. Conley also hit two foul shots with 9.9 seconds left for a four-point lead,

though Shelvin Mack went 1 of 2 at the line with 2.1 seconds left to give the Bucks one last chance trailing by three.

The Bucks inbounded the ball to their best 3-point shooter, Khris Middleton, but he missed near the top of the arc with two defenders in his face as time expired. Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 31 points, and Middleton added 25 for the Bucks.

MAGIC 111, 76ERS 106

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Jimmy Butler had 14 points in his Philadelphia debut, but the 76ers collapsed late and lost to Orlando after Terrence Ross hit a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 8.7 seconds.

Butler played 33 minutes and shot 6 for 12 from the field. The four-time All-Star was acquired Monday from Minnesota in a five-player trade.

Orlando scored 21 straight points in the fourth quarter, then held the 76ers without a field goal over the final 3 1/2 minutes. Nikola Vucevic had 30 points, making two free throws with 5.8 seconds left.

Joel Embiid finished with a triple-double of 19 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists for the 76ers. J.J. Redick led Philadelphia with 22 points but committed two turnovers in the final 31 seconds. □



All Japan's Sosuke Genda slides into third base while hitting a three-run triple off MLB All-Star starter Brian Johnson of the Boston Red Sox in the second inning of Game 6 at their All-Stars Series baseball at Nagoya Dome in Nagoya, central Japan, Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018. Japan won 4-1.

Associated Press

Japan beats MLB All-Stars 4-1, win series 5-1

By JIM ARMSTRONG
AP Sports Writer

NAGOYA, Japan (AP) — Sosuke Genda hit a three-run triple that chased starter Brian Johnson in a four-run second inning, and Japan beat the MLB All-Stars 4-1 Thursday for their fifth win in the six-game series.

Genda scored on Ryosuke Kikuchi's sacrifice fly off Erasmo Ramirez at the Nagoya Dome.

NL Rookie of the Year Ronald Acuna Jr. homered in the eighth against Yu Sato. MLB loaded the bases on

singles by Eugenio Suarez, Mitch Haniger and Kevin Pillar, but Sato escaped the one-out jam by striking out Robinson Chirinos and Chris Taylor.

Johnson gave up four runs, five hits and a walk, getting just three outs, and was the loser.

Winner Shotaro Kasahara struck out four and gave up four hits in 4 2/3 innings, and Yasuaki Yamasaki got three straight outs for his second save.

"They play the game the right way," MLB manager

Don Mattingly said of Japan. "They have a lot of hitters who can put the ball in play and give you a lot of looks, and their pitchers have always been one of their strengths."

Japan used the series to prepare for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"We used a lot of young players in this series, and it was a valuable experience for them," Japan manager Atsunori Inaba said. "I hope they use this experience to continue making progress." □



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Rockets "parting ways" with 10-time All-Star Anthony

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Carmelo Anthony is done in Houston. Rockets general manager Daryl Morey released a statement Thursday saying the team is "parting ways" with Anthony and "working toward a resolution."

Anthony played just 10 games for Houston after signing a one-year, \$2.4 million deal during the off-season. Morey added that: "Carmelo had a tremendous approach during his time with the Rockets and accepted every role head coach Mike D'Antoni gave him. The fit we envisioned when Carmelo chose to sign with the Rockets has not materialized, therefore we thought it was best to move on as any other outcome would have been unfair to him."

Anthony was traded from the Oklahoma City Thunder to the Atlanta Hawks in July before the Hawks released him to clear the way for him to sign with the Rockets.

Houston thought he could be the piece it needed to finally get past Golden State and win its first championship since back-to-back titles in 1994-95. Instead the



In this Friday, Nov. 2, 2018 file photo, Brooklyn Nets forward Joe Harris guards Houston Rockets forward Carmelo Anthony (7) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in New York.

Associated Press

Rockets limped out to a 6-7 start and the emergence of undrafted rookie Gary Clark made it appear that Anthony would have to take a reduced role.

In the end the Rockets decided it would be better to move on than to force Anthony to do that.

"We just had to see how things worked out," D'Antoni said. "And the way we play probably wasn't conducive to his

game and he was trying to make the necessary sacrifices and it wasn't fair to him as a Hall of Fame player to play in a way that wasn't good for him, wasn't good for us. It just wasn't a fit."

The 34-year-old Anthony is a 10-time All-Star who has had a tough time over the last two seasons. He averaged a career-low 16.2 points in 78 starts in a tumultuous season for the Thunder last season before

coming to Houston — and accepting a reserve role for the first time in his 16-year career.

Eight of Anthony's 10 appearances for the Rockets came off the bench after he had started all 1,054 games he'd played in his first 15 NBA seasons. D'Antoni said he feels for Anthony that things ended this way and made it clear that it wasn't a matter of Anthony not having the

right attitude in Houston. "In the summer we tried to hit a home run and it didn't work out," D'Antoni said.

"He tried everything he could. He was great while he was here. It just didn't work out for whatever reason. I just thank him for his professionalism.

It was good. He tried everything he could to make it work and it just didn't work out."

The third overall pick in the 2003 draft has averaged 24 points, 6.5 rebounds and 3 assists in a career that also included stints with the Denver Nuggets and the New York Knicks.

Anthony sat out Houston's last three games with what the team called an illness. His last appearance for Houston came in a blow-out loss to Oklahoma City on Nov. 8 when he had two points and five rebounds.

D'Antoni expects the rest of the Rockets to handle this professionally, but knows that the move will be tough on them.

"I'm sure they hate it," D'Antoni said. "There's some good friends in there and there will be friendships. But above all this is a business." □

Lakers' Rajon Rondo to have surgery on broken right hand

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rajon Rondo is expected to have surgery this week on his broken right hand, and the Los Angeles Lakers plan to use a variety of strategies to replace the veteran point guard while he heals.

Los Angeles will be without Rondo for at least a few weeks after he was injured in the fourth quarter of the Lakers' fourth straight win, 126-117 over Portland on

Wednesday night. Rondo apparently hurt his hand while making a steal, but he kept playing for several more minutes before coming out of the game.

Coach Luke Walton praised Rondo's leadership and two-way contributions Thursday after the Lakers' final practice before heading out on a three-game road trip. Although he has played only 11 games for LA, Rondo is already a key component of the re-

vamped club. "Obviously we can't replace what Rondo does for our team and how important he is to our team, but we're not going to make excuses," Walton said. "That's not who we are as a group. We're going to step up, and guys are going to pick up the slack and add to their responsibility."

The injury comes at an inopportune time for the Lakers (8-6), who are off to their best 14-game start

since the 2011-12 season. Their four-game winning streak is the NBA's longest active run.

The Lakers already spent three games without Rondo this season during his suspension for fighting with Chris Paul during LA's home opener. They have even more options to fill in during this longer stretch without him.

Lonzo Ball, who took over as a starter during Rondo's suspension and never left, is

likely to play more minutes overall. Rondo has been a mentor to Ball, even studying film with the second-year playmaker.

"We'll miss him, but his presence is still going to be felt," said Ball, who is averaging 8.7 points, 4.9 rebounds and 4.8 assists while playing his usual stellar defense. "When he comes in, the pace goes however he wants it to go. He gets everybody in their spots. So that's what I try to do." □

Boston's Betts, Milwaukee's Yelich win MVP Awards

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Boston's Mookie Betts and Milwaukee's Christian Yelich were runaway winners of the Most Valuable Player awards after the 26-year-old outfielders each led their teams to first-place finishes with dominant seasons that included batting titles.

Betts received 28 first-place votes and 410 points from the Baseball Writers' Association of America in balloting announced Thursday. Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout, a two-time MVP, followed with one first-place vote and 265 points. Trout tied the record of four second-place finishes shared by Stan Musial, Ted Williams and Albert Pujols. Trout won in 2014 and 2016; was finished second in '12, '13 and '15; and was fourth in 2017.

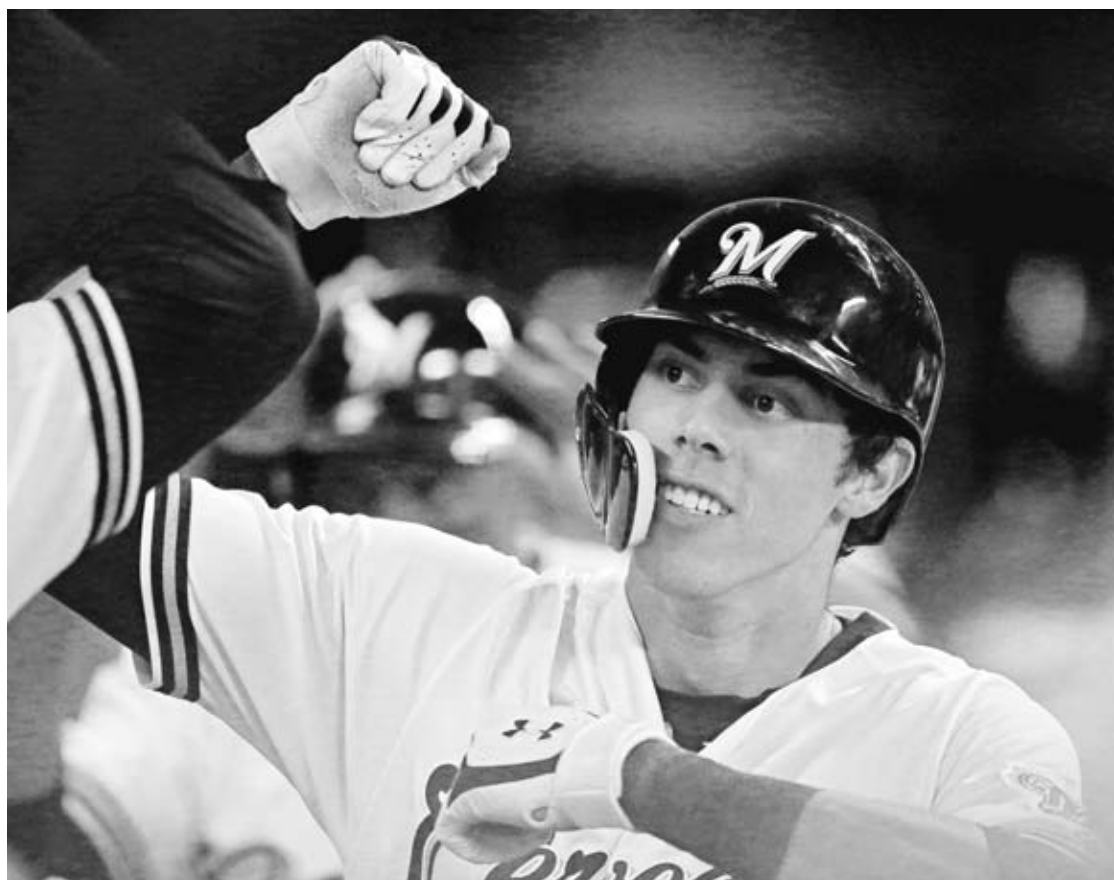
Cleveland third baseman Jose Ramirez was third with 208 points, and Red Sox

designated hitter J.D. Martinez was next with one first and 198 points.

Betts hit a major league-leading .346 with 32 homers, 80 RBIs and 30 stolen bases as the leadoff hitter for the Red Sox, who won a team-record 108 games and their fourth World Series title in 15 seasons. Votes were submitted before the postseason.

Both batting champions won MVP awards for the first time since San Francisco's Buster Posey and Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in 2012. Yelich got 29 first-place votes and 415 points, and the other first-place vote went to New York Mets pitcher Jacob deGrom, the NL Cy Young Award winner, who finished fifth. Chicago Cubs infielder Javier Baez was second with 250 points, followed by Colorado third baseman Nolan Arenado with 203.

Acquired from the payroll-paring Miami Marlins about a month before spring



In this Monday, Sept. 17, 2018 file photo, Milwaukee Brewers' Christian Yelich is congratulated by teammates in the dugout after hitting a two-run home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

training, the 26-year-old Yelich won the first batting title in Brewers history with a .326 average. He set career highs with 36 homers and 110 RBIs and had a 1.000 OPS.

Yelich nearly became the NL's first Triple Crown winner since Joe Medwick in 1937, finishing two homers shy of

Arenado and one RBI back of Baez. Yelich was especially impressive in the second half, hitting .367 with 25 homers and 67 RBIs — including 11 homers in August and 10 in September. Milwaukee reached the playoffs for the first time in seven years, swept Colorado in the Division Series

then lost to the Los Angeles Dodgers in a seven-game League Championship Series, falling one win short of its first World Series appearance since 2002. Yelich gets a \$100,000 bonus for winning, and the price of the 2022 team option in his contract increases by \$1 million to \$16 million. □

Cy Young

Continued from Page 17

"I definitely think the game has changed in that aspect," deGrom said.

"I feel like it's just turning more into quality of work and what did you accomplish in those innings," Snell said. "I think that's just the way it's going."

DeGrom easily beat out Washington's Max Scherzer, who was seeking a third straight Cy Young and fourth overall. DeGrom got 29 first-place votes and 207 points from members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Scherzer had the other first-place vote.

In his first season after chopping off his distinctive long hair, deGrom cut down hitters from start to finish despite little help from teammates. He had a 1.70 ERA, the lowest in the NL since Zack Greinke's 1.66 mark

in 2015. Yet the 30-year-old right-hander went 10-9, eclipsing the low bar among starters of 13 victories set by the Dodgers' Fernando Valenzuela in 1981 and matched by Seattle's Felix Hernandez in 2010.

DeGrom allowed three runs or fewer in 29 consecutive starts to close the season, breaking Leslie "King" Cole's 108-year-old record of 26 such outings. Yet the Mets were 11-18 in those games and 14-18 overall with deGrom on the mound.

"My thought process was, 'Hey, take the ball every fifth day and continue to try to put this team in position to win and control what you can control,'" deGrom said.

Hernandez's Cy Young victory signaled a major shift from voters, who once prioritized pitcher wins.

The push toward ad-



In this Sept. 26, 2018, file photo, New York Mets pitcher Jacob deGrom delivers the ball to the Atlanta Braves during the second inning of a baseball game in New York. DeGrom won the National League Cy Young Award on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

Associated Press

vanced analytics made deGrom's candidacy possible, and by September there was little debate deGrom was worthy, even as the Mets regularly wasted his dominance.

"This was one of my goals," deGrom said. "The team didn't end up where we wanted to be this past

season, but you kind of set personal goals, and I think being able to accomplish something that has been a dream of yours is just something special. To be a Cy Young Award winner, you're in great company, and it truly is an honor." Perhaps no pitcher had ever been such a hard-luck

loser. New York averaged 3.5 runs in games started by deGrom, second only to Cole Hamels for worst support in the majors among qualified pitchers.

During one stretch late in the season, the Mets totaled 10 runs over seven of deGrom's outings, and four of those were driven in by the pitcher himself.

DeGrom nearly produced more wins above replacement than actual wins — an unfortunate sabermetric feat that has only been accomplished once, when the Philadelphia Athletics' Eddie Smith went 4-17 with 4.1 WAR in 1937. Baseball-Reference calculated deGrom for 9.6 WAR.

The 2014 NL Rookie of the Year, he became the seventh rookie winner voted a Cy Young, joining fellow Mets Tom Seaver and Dwight Gooden.

R.A. Dickey was the only other Met to win a Cy Young. □

It's The Big Three and Joey Logano in NASCAR's title race

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP) —

Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick and Martin Truex Jr. sat on a bench, scrolling through their phones, oblivious to their surroundings and the stakes.

Joey Logano was a room away, mingling in the back of a ballroom, grinning ear-to-ear and totally at ease.

"It's the Big Three and me," Logano shrugged. "I might be the underdog in the stats standpoint, but we sure don't feel like we are."

Logano is the outcast, statistically and socially, of Sunday's championship field. He wasn't picked to advance to the Homestead-Miami Speedway finale but he's part of the championship party because he used his bumper to move Truex out of his way and win at Martinsville Speedway.

That victory put Logano in the finale, where the so-called Big Three were always supposed to be, and Logano is seemingly just along for the ride.

But he doesn't view it that way and thinks this championship might be his to lose. "You have to have that confidence," Logano said. "I feel like our team is in a great spot. We're ready to get to Sunday and see what happens."

NASCAR shipped the four



In this May 19, 2018, file photo, Joey Logano looks from the garage after practice for the NASCAR All-Star auto race at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C.

Associated Press

title contenders off to New York City this week for a full day of promotional activities, then brought them together Thursday for the opening of championship weekend. They had lunch together, filmed a segment on the beach for "The Today Show," then previewed the title race in a posh South Beach hotel. It hardly made for a tense or dramatic lead-in to what is expected to be the most competitive championship race since this playoff format was launched in 2014. Harvick won the 2014 title, Busch grabbed the crown in 2015 and Truex is the defending series champion.

The trio combined to win 20 of 35 points races this season, while Logano has two victories but had the steadiest playoff run.

Asked Thursday if this is the most competitive four-driver finale since the format launched in 2014, it was Harvick who noted it actually isn't much different than last season when The Big Three raced against Logano teammate Brad Keselowski.

"It's the same four organizations from last year," Harvick said.

"It just depends on if Joey is a better driver than Brad," Truex added.

"They both run into you a

lot," Busch continued.

Logano smartly closed the subject: "It's best if I keep my mouth shut on this one," he said.

Indeed, the most interesting thing to emerge from NASCAR's championship preview day was the confusion on how Logano and Truex plan to race each other Sunday. Truex had vowed not to let Logano win the championship after Logano moved him out of the way last month at Martinsville. Forced to spend the better part of two days together as a group, Logano and Truex at one point apparently discussed the situation.

Their interpretation of that conversation now differs as Truex claims he'd "absolutely" move Logano out of his way to win the championship.

"I have a free pass. He already told me I could. He told me he's fair game. So here we go," Truex said.

Logano recalled the talk differently.

"I didn't tell him that. I said 'Hey, I expect to get raced the way I race people,'" Logano said. "I'm a hard racer. I expect to get raced hard. I said it before, we didn't crash each other. I didn't crash him. Moved him up enough to have a drag race. That's what I explained to him."

No matter how it plays out, the four title contenders expect to control the race Sunday in a thrilling push to the winner-take-all Cup championship. Since the elimination format was introduced in 2014, the champion has won Homestead to win the title every year.

"I think there's about a 99 percent chance that one of these guys is going to win (the race) to win the championship," Truex said. "That's what you come down here prepared for as a group, as a team, as a driver, and that's your goal coming here to win, and then you can guarantee yourself a championship." □

Swim meet canceled after FINA's threat to ban athletes

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

GENEVA (AP) —

Amid growing conflict between swimmers and their world governing body, an international swimming meet was canceled on Thursday after threats to ban athletes who took part seeking better prize money.

The Italian swim federation called off the Dec. 20-21 competition it was organizing in Turin, saying it acted to protect athletes from FINA.

The Turin meet was linked to a proposed International Swimming League, a privately run operation

which aims to operate outside FINA's control and pay higher prize money.

"FINA declared the event 'non-approved', threatening sanctions against the participating athletes," Italian officials said in a statement.

FINA, based in Lausanne, Switzerland, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Some Olympic champions have long criticized FINA, believing swimmers should be better rewarded, have more say in decisions, and could create their own union.

Olympic champion Adam

Peaty of Britain wrote on Thursday on Twitter he was "incredibly disappointed" by the cancellation.

The politics involved will "galvanize swimmers, not break them," wrote Peaty, who holds the world records in men's 50-meter and 100-meter breaststroke.

Peaty has previously supported Hungarian star Katalin Hosszu in her public criticism of FINA, and calls to create a swimmers' union.

Italian organizers said Peaty, Hosszu and other Olympic champions including Chad Le Clos of

South Africa and Sarah Sjöström of Sweden were due to take part in their 25-meter pool event.

It was scheduled days after the short-course world championships being staged in Hangzhou, China.

The clash of events seemed to provoke FINA into finding more prize money for its worlds event in the smaller pool.

On Nov. 6, FINA added to its promised prize fund for China by almost doubling the total to \$2.07 million.

FINA wrote to member federations on Oct. 30 warning of bans of up to two years

for taking part in Turin.

However, a European Commission decision last year suggests swimmers could successfully challenge any attempt to limit their right to race and earn money.

The European Union's executive arm ruled the International Swimming Union in breach of anti-trust laws by threatening severe bans for speed skaters who wanted to compete in a South Korean-organized event in Dubai.

The ISU's threats "also serve to protect its own commercial interests," the European officials said. □

Electronic driving systems don't always work, tests show

By **TOM KRISHER**

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Testing by AAA shows that electronic driver assist systems on the road today may not keep vehicles in their lanes or spot stationary objects in time to avoid a crash.

The tests brought a warning from the auto club that drivers shouldn't think that the systems make their vehicles self-driving, and that they should always be ready to take control.

AAA also said that use of the word "pilot" by automakers in naming their systems can make some owners believe the vehicles can drive themselves.

"These systems are made as an aid to driving, they are not autonomous, despite all of the hype around vehicle autonomy," said Greg Brannon, AAA's director of automotive engineering. "Clearly having 'pilot' in the name may imply a level of unaided driving, which is not correct for the current state of the development of these systems."

The test results released Thursday come after several highly publicized crashes involving Tesla vehicles that were operating on the company's system named "Autopilot." The National Transportation Safety



In this March 23, 2018 file photo provided by KTVU, emergency personnel work at the scene where a Tesla electric SUV crashed into a barrier on U.S. Highway 101 in Mountain View, Calif.

Associated Press

Board is investigating some of the crashes, including a March fatality that involved a Model X that struck a freeway barrier near Mountain View, California.

The AAA findings are the second tests showing that the systems can't handle every situation in real-world driving, including some that are relatively common. In August, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety released tests that showed similar problems to the AAA study. The auto club tested the systems on four vehicles that had adaptive cruise control, lane-keeping assist and automatic emergency braking. Vehicles

tested included the 2018 Mercedes-Benz S Class, the 2018 Nissan Rogue, a 2017 Tesla Model S and a 2019 Volvo XC40. In addition to Tesla's Autopilot, Volvo calls its system "Pilot Assist," while Nissan's is named "ProPilot Assist."

Automakers generally say they tell drivers that their cars aren't fully self-driving and that they should always be alert and ready to intervene.

AAA says the vehicles drifted out of lanes and hugged lane markers, struggling with moderate traffic, curved roads and streets with busy intersections. Three of the

four would have failed to avoid a crash when the vehicle ahead of them changed lanes and a simulated stopped vehicle was ahead.

"As a result we had to take evasive action," said Brannon.

Only the Tesla system brought the vehicle to a complete stop in all five track test runs, but driver intervention was needed for the others, the AAA report said.

The vehicles' owner's manuals say that spotting a stationary vehicle after a lead vehicle changes lanes is a design limitation for the systems, Brannon said. But he

said researchers expected the vehicles to see stopped vehicles and react in time.

Automakers generally say that the systems are designed to supplement a human driver and they make it clear the vehicles don't drive themselves.

Nissan said its system name contains the word "assist," showing that it's designed to help the driver.

"Mercedes-Benz has always stressed that this technology is designed to assist the driver, not to encourage customers to ignore their responsibilities as drivers," the automaker said in a statement.

Tesla says that it reminds drivers to keep their hands on the wheel. "Tesla has always been clear that Autopilot doesn't make the car impervious to all accidents," the company said in a statement earlier this year.

A message was left Thursday seeking comment from Volvo.

Brannon said that despite their shortcomings, the systems have great potential to save lives and stop crashes from happening.

"Anything that can serve as a backstop to a good driver is going to enhance the safety of the system, of the driver," he said. □

Facebook says it's getting better at removing hate speech

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook said it's making progress on detecting hate speech, graphic violence and other violations of its rules, even before users see and report them.

Facebook said that during the April-to-September period, it doubled the amount of hate speech it detected proactively, compared with the previous six months. The findings were spelled out Thursday in Facebook's second report on enforcing community standards. The reports come as Facebook grapples with challenge after challenge, ranging from fake news to Facebook's role in elections interfer-

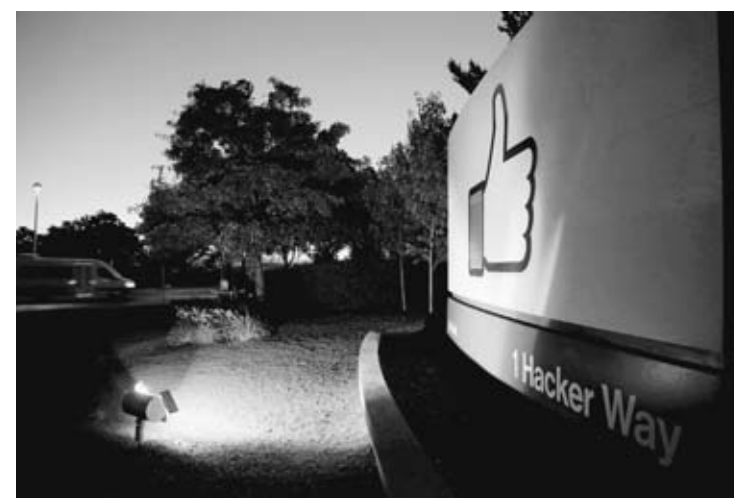
ence, hate speech and incitement to violence in the U.S., Myanmar, India and elsewhere.

The company also said it disabled more than 1.5 billion fake accounts in the latest six-month period, compared with 1.3 billion during the previous six months. Facebook said most of the fake accounts it found were financially motivated, rather than aimed at misinformation. The company has nearly 2.3 billion users.

Facebook's report comes a day after The New York Times published an extensive report on how Facebook deals with crisis after crisis over the past two years. The Times described

Facebook's strategy as "delay, deny and deflect."

Facebook said Thursday it has cut ties with a Washington public relations firm, Definers, which the Times said Facebook hired to discredit opponents. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said during a call with reporters that he learned about the company's relationship with Definers only when he read the Times report. On community guidelines, Facebook also released metrics on issues such as child nudity and sexual exploitation, terrorist propaganda, bullying and spam. While it is publishing how many violations it is catching, the company said it can't always reliably



In this Jun 7, 2013, file photo, the Facebook "like" symbol is illuminated on a sign outside the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif.

Associated Press

measure how prevalent these things are on Facebook overall. For instance, while Facebook took action on 2 million instances

of bullying in the July-September period, this does not mean there were only 2 million instances of bullying during this time. □

Walmart flexes its muscle against Amazon

By ANNE D'INNOENZIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Walmart, armed with grocery and other online services, is proving it can do battle with Amazon.

The world's largest retailer delivered strong third-quarter results Thursday, extending a streak of sales growth into its 11th straight quarter that showed it's pulling shoppers online and in the store. It also raised profit expectations for the year heading into the holiday shopping season.

Like other retailers, Walmart is benefiting from a strong job market and rising consumer confidence. Home Depot and Macy's raised annual profit expectations this week. But they are also benefiting from the misfortunes of others. Toys R Us and Bon-Ton Stores have gone out of business, while the bankruptcy of Sears Holdings Corp. is creating more opportunities to grab sales. Meanwhile, J.C. Penney is still floundering, with shares plunging after the company withdrew profit guidance and lowered its sales expectations for the year.

Walmart sales were strong in such areas as fall seasonal goods, toys and fresh food. That helped sales at stores open at least a year rise 3.4 percent, a bit slower from the previous quarter's 4.5 percent at Walmart's U.S. division, which marked its best performance in more than a decade. The measure, an indicator of a retailer's health, was helped by a 1.2 percent increase in customer traffic and a 2.2 percent increase in transactions.

Since buying Jet.com for more than \$3 billion two years ago, Walmart has been expanding its online business by acquiring brands and adding thousands of items. It's also been ramping up grocery delivery and pickup options. Grocery pickup is now offered at nearly 2,100 of its 4,700 U.S. stores, while grocery delivery is available in nearly 600 locations. Walmart has also revamped its website with a



This Nov. 9, 2018, file photo shows a Walmart Supercenter in Houston. Walmart Inc. reports earnings Thursday, Nov. 15.

Associated Press

focus on fashion and home furnishings. That all helped to drive a 43 percent increase in online sales in the U.S. during the latest quarter. That was up from a 40 percent increase the second quarter period and a 33 percent increase in the first quarter.

A visit to a Walmart store in Houston last week showed generous offerings in holiday merchandise such as large interactive toy ponies and hot pink toy cars stacked high in aisles. Shoes are now unboxed and are hanging on racks to make it easier for shoppers to find them.

"We're feeling confident going into this holiday season," said Walmart U.S. CEO Greg Foran during an exclusive interview and tour last week at the Houston store. "I think the standards, the flow of merchandise, our pricing are feeling better than it was a year ago." Walmart, based in Bentonville, Arkansas, is promising more to come. Under Foran, Walmart is creating a tech-powered shopping experience at its stores, while transforming them into efficient distribution hubs that can fill online orders to reduce shipping costs and speed up deliveries. To do that, Walmart is doing more extensive train-

ing for workers who are taking on new roles or redefined responsibilities while using scanning robots and other automation.

Walmart is deploying giant pickup towers that spit out online orders in hundreds of its stores. Customers can now also better find items in the store because of digital maps on their smartphone. Workers, armed with new apps on their mobile devices, are also able to manage routine tasks, freeing them to serve the customer or check them out in key areas of the store.

"We can provide a much better customer experience because we are in stock of the right item, at the right time and at the same time it is going to help us be much more precise," he added.

Still, Foran acknowledges it's facing stiffer competition from Amazon as well as

other traditional chains like Target. Consulting firm Bain & Co. predicts that Amazon in the U.S. will outgrow the market and capture up to half of all e-commerce sales by the end of the year, making it even stronger than a year ago.

In fact, in the free shipping arena, Walmart found itself the laggard during the start of the holidays.

Target for the first time got rid of its \$35 threshold for two-day delivery for the holidays. That move was followed by Amazon, which announced earlier in the month that it was going to make two-day shipping available to all shoppers including non-Prime customers, without the \$25 spending requirement.

Amazon is also expanding its cashier-less physical stores, pushing Walmart and others to speed up checkout, a source of frus-

tration for many shoppers. In time for the holidays, Walmart has rolled out a program that allows its staff to check out customers and provide receipts right on the spot in the busiest sections of the store.

Foran told The Associated Press that it's looking to bring back Scan & Go, which allowed shoppers to scan items while they shop with their own personal device or a Walmart device and walk out.

It had been shelved twice after customers found it too clunky.

But the first big test this holiday season is Black Friday.

"It's a proxy for stores. If you run good stores, people will want to go to them," said Foran, who will be on a plane from 2 p.m. to midnight on Thanksgiving visiting stores and monitoring the sales.

The company on Thursday posted third-quarter earnings of \$1.71 billion, or 58 cents per share.

Adjusted earnings were \$1.08 per share, which is 6 cents better than expected.

The world's largest retailer posted revenue of \$124.89 billion, about in line with forecasts.

Walmart Inc. says it now expects full-year earnings of \$4.75 to \$4.85 per share. □

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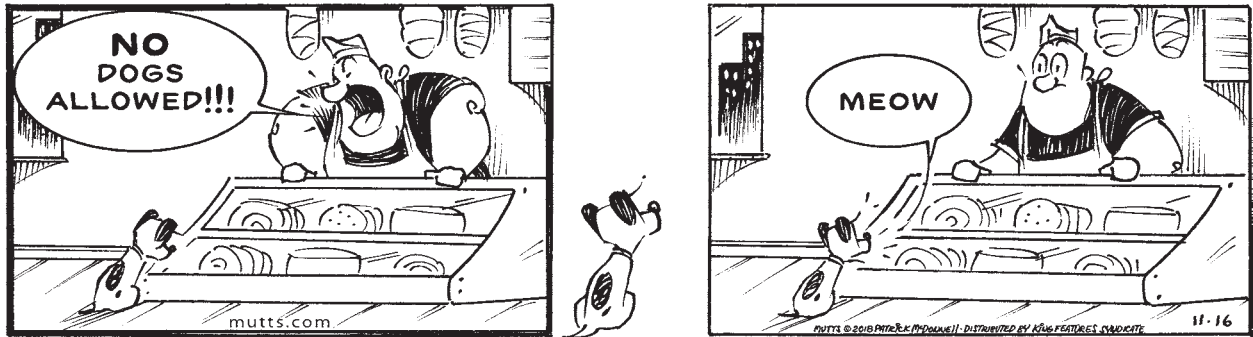
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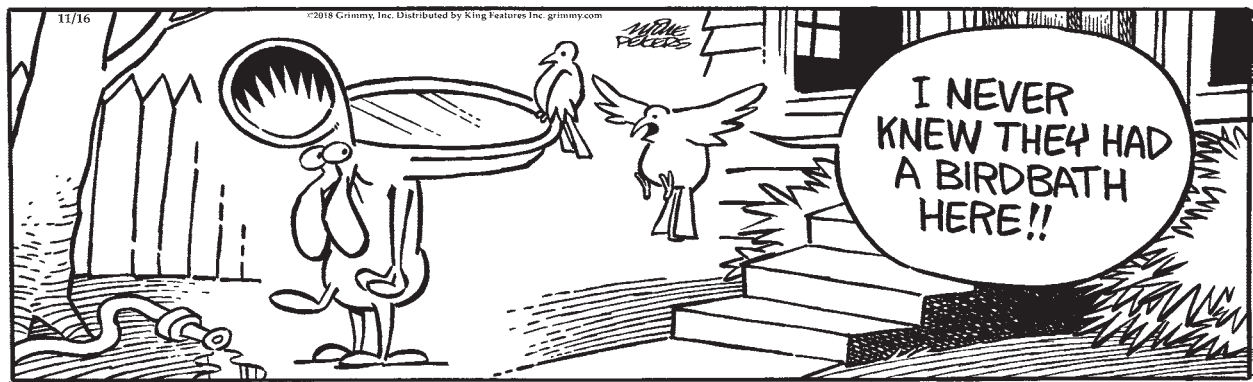
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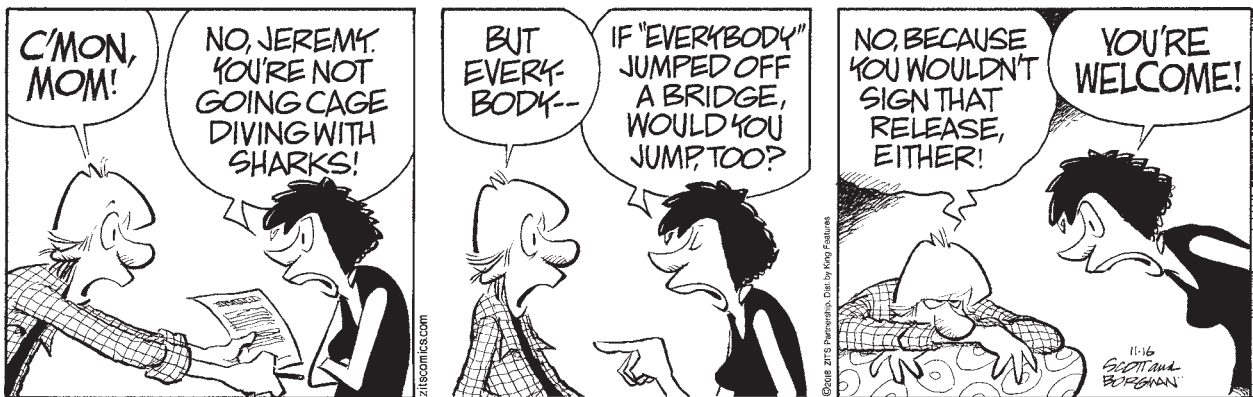
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3		4			6
		1		8			5
7			2		3		
		7		5			2
		6					1
2			4		5		
		9		6			7
		4		1			3
6			3		8		

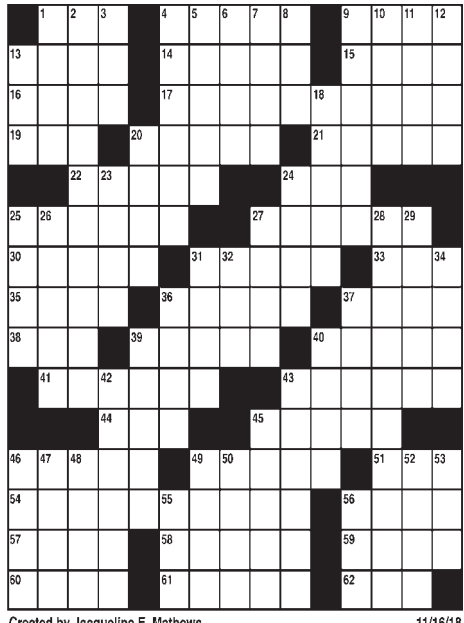
Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	6	2	1	3	5	4	9	7
5	9	7	4	8	2	6	1	3
4	3	1	9	6	7	8	5	2
2	7	3	8	5	6	1	4	9
1	5	4	2	9	3	7	6	8
6	8	9	7	4	1	3	2	5
9	2	8	3	1	4	5	7	6
3	4	6	5	7	9	2	8	1
7	1	5	6	2	8	9	3	4

- ACROSS
- 1 "The Wizard of Oz" production co.
 - 4 School composition
 - 9 Resound
 - 13 Lion's hideaway
 - 14 No longer fresh
 - 15 Reveal
 - 16 Hot dog holders
 - 17 "...and lead us not into ..."
 - 19 Lively dance
 - 20 ...about; praises highly
 - 21 Pennies
 - 22 Furious
 - 24 Feasted on
 - 25 Supernatural
 - 27 Not required to serve
 - 30 Royal decree
 - 31 Was indisposed
 - 33 Curved bone
 - 35 Walkway
 - 36 Soft-furred weasel cousins
 - 37 Long sandwich
 - 38 ...Beta Kappa
 - 39 Leaves the car
 - 40 Adds booze to the punch
 - 41 Academy Awards
 - 43 Coleslaws
 - 44 Hurry
 - 45 Blanket
 - 46 Person
 - 49 Money, slangily
 - 51 Debtor's note
 - 54 Punctuation mark
 - 56 Dinner course
 - 57 Young animal
 - 58 Perfect
 - 59 Shacks
 - 60 Patella's place
 - 61 Late comedian
 - 62 Suffix for murder or count
- DOWN
- 1 Hawaiian island
 - 2 Gum problem
 - 3 Fem. title



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/16/18

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

ADD	UNCAP	URGE
IRON	POUCH	NULL
RAZE	PUTTY	BEAK
WEARINESS	ODDS	
ROTS	ILL	
SCREWY	VACATION	
CRASS	TOGAS	HUE
AUNT	BAGEL	DATA
LEG	TALUS	LEVEL
ELEGANCE	METERS	
RED	TUNA	
FLEA	ASSERTIVE	
GOAD	NOMAD	LEAF
HIRE	NOOSE	SERB
INNS	ANGER	PSI

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- 40 Vesuvius' output
- 42 Pure
- 43 Exclusively
- 45 Composer George M. ...
- 46 Break into another's PC
- 47 Come ...; find
- 48 Beauty spot
- 49 Pie à la ...
- 50 ... house; realtor's event
- 52 On the ... with; not speaking to
- 53 FedEx rival
- 55 Tease
- 56 Feminine pronoun

Rare conservation win: Mountain gorilla population ticks up



This 2014 photo provided by the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund shows a group of mountain gorillas in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park.

By **CHRISTINA LARSON**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — There are more gorillas in the mist — a rare conservation success story, scientists say. After facing near-extinction, mountain gorillas are slowly rebounding. On Wednesday, the Switzerland-based International Union for Conservation of Nature updated mountain gorillas' status from "critically endangered" to "endangered," a more promising, if still precarious, designation. There are now just over 1,000 of the animals in the wild, up from an estimated population of 680 a decade ago. "In the context of crashing populations of wildlife around the world, this is a remarkable conservation success," said Tara Stoinski, president and chief scientist of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.

The Atlanta-based non-profit is named for the primate researcher whose work helped draw international attention to mountain gorillas and whose memoir became the basis for the 1988 Sigourney Weaver film "Gorillas in the Mist." "This is a beacon of hope — and it's happened in recently war-torn and still very poor countries," said Stoinski, who is also a member of the IUCN's primate specialist group, which recommended the status change.

Mountain gorillas live in lush and misty forests along a

range of dormant volcanoes in east Africa. Their habitat falls inside national parks spanning parts of Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Fossey, who died in 1985, had projected that the primates may be extinct by 2000. Instead, their populations have been slowly increasing thanks to sustained and well-funded international conservation efforts.

"We have made progress in terms of their protection, in terms of allowing an environment where mountain gorillas can continue to thrive and grow," said Anna Behm Masozera, director of the International Gorilla Conservation Program, based in Kigali, Rwanda. "But it's important to note that mountain goril-

las' numbers could still slip back very quickly. We still have just two fragile and small populations," split between two national park areas.

Several factors have enabled mountain gorillas' modest rebound, said Masozera.

The three governments have stepped up enforcement of national park boundaries — areas where hunting, logging and paved roads are illegal.

Tourism helps too: Visitors pay up to \$1,500 an hour to watch gorillas, money that helps pay for park rangers.

"Primate ecotourism, done right, can be a really significant force for funding conservation," said Russ Mittermeier, chief conservation officer at Global Wildlife Conservation. "It gives local governments and communities a tangible economic incentive to protect these habitats and species."

There's also health care. Gorilla Doctors, a non-governmental group, has trained veterinary staff in each of the countries where the mountain gorillas live.

Hunting in the national parks is illegal, but nearby residents still set traps to catch other animals, such as antelopes. Those traps can also grab gorillas' arms and legs. □

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Houston skyscrapers may have worsened Hurricane Harvey rain

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Humans helped make recent devastating U.S. hurricanes wetter but in different ways, two new studies find. Hurricane Harvey snagged on the skyscrapers of Houston, causing it to slow and dump more rain than it normally would, one study found. The city's massive amounts of paving had an even bigger impact by reducing drainage. Land development in the metro area, on average, increased the chances of extreme flooding by 21 times, study authors said.

A second study looked at last year's major Hurricanes Maria and Irma and 2005's deadly Katrina and used computer simulations to see what would have happened if there had been no human-caused global warming. The study found that climate change significantly increased rainfall from those three storms, but did not boost their wind speed.

Both studies are in Wednesday's journal *Nature*. Houston was a literal drag on Harvey as it sloshed through, with the storm getting tripped up by the skyscrapers, said study co-author Gabriele Villarini, a



In this Monday, Aug. 28, 2017 file photo, floodwaters from Tropical Storm Harvey overflow from Buffalo Bayou in downtown Houston, Texas.

Associated Press

civil and environmental engineering professor at the University of Iowa.

Co-author Gabe Vecchi, a climate scientist at Princeton University, said that forced the storm to move up higher, causing more concentrated rain over Houston and slowing, which also made more rain. He compared it to a river running over rocks, creating bubbles.

"That's sort of what's going on here," he said.

This effect is dwarfed, though, by the paving and building that don't al-

low water to sink into the ground, Vecchi said.

Harvey's record rainfall reached 5 feet in one spot near Houston. The scientists used computer simulations to see the effects of urbanization. In parts of the Houston metro area, the effects of development ranged from a 10 percent higher risk of extreme flooding in the less developed northwest to nearly 92 times the risk in the northeast, they reported.

That's on top of the unique weather patterns that made Harvey slow down

and stall and climate change which brought more water into the storm, Vecchi said.

MIT hurricane and climate expert Kerry Emanuel, who wasn't part of the study, called the Harvey study "a real advance in our understanding of hurricane impacts on urban areas."

But Texas state climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon wasn't convinced. He said the team used generic shapes instead of the actual Houston skyline. He said the storm's wind speeds may have slowed,

but that's different from the storm's forward movement slowing.

The other study in *Nature* looked at a variety of historical damaging storms and tried to calculate past and future effects of climate change. In three cases, the scientists simulated the storms without the changes in the climate from greenhouse gases, showing that global warming increased rainfall 8.9 percent in Hurricane Maria, 6.3 percent in Hurricane Irma and 8.7 percent in Hurricane Katrina. Maria hit Puerto Rico and other parts of the Caribbean. Irma hit the Caribbean and Florida, while Katrina struck New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

In Maria's case, a warming climate concentrated heavier rain in the center of the storm and reduced it on the edges, said co-author Michael Wehner, a climate scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

For 15 storms, which included the devastating Typhoon Haiyan, the potent Gilbert and 1992's Hurricane Andrew, the scientists projected future warming and found future versions of the same storms would be significantly wetter and stronger. □



This illustration provided by Gleiver Prieto and Katerina Harvati shows a group of Neanderthals hunting with non-projectile weapons.

Associated Press

Skulls reveal Neanderthals, humans had similarly harsh lives

By **MALCOLM RITTER**
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Life as a Neanderthal was no picnic, but a new analysis says it was no more dangerous than what our own species faced in ancient times.

That challenges what the authors call the prevailing view of our evolutionary cousins, that they lived risky, stressful lives. Some studies have suggested they had high injury rates, which have been blamed on things like social violence, attacks by carnivores, a hunting style that required getting close to large prey, and the hazards of extensive travel in environments

full of snow and ice.

While it's true that their lives were probably riskier than those of people in today's industrial societies, the vastly different living conditions of those two groups mean comparing them isn't really appropriate, said Katerina Harvati of the University of Tuebingen in Germany.

A better question is whether Neanderthals faced more danger than our species did when we shared similar environments and comparable lifestyles of mobile hunter-gatherers, she and study co-authors say in a paper released Wednesday by the journal *Nature*. To study that, they focused

on skull injuries. They reviewed prior studies of fossils from western Eurasia that ranged from about 80,000 to 20,000 years old. In all they assessed data on 295 skull samples from 114 individual Neanderthals, and 541 skull samples from 90 individuals of our own species, *Homo sapiens*.

Injury rates turned out to be about the same in both species.

That questions the idea that the behavior of Neanderthals created particularly high levels of danger, Marta Mirazon Lahr of Cambridge University wrote in an accompanying commentary. □

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Mana honored as Latin Grammys' Person of the Year

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mexican rock band Mana became the first group ever to be honored as the Latin Recording Academy's Person of the Year Wednesday, when its four members were recognized during a star-studded tribute concert for their creative accomplishments and philanthropic efforts. Lead vocalist Fher Olvera, drummer Alex González, guitarist Sergio Vallín and bass player Juan Calleros received a crystal trophy before artists, industry leaders and others in an event the day before the Latin Grammy Awards ceremony in Las Vegas.

"Mana is a band that has given its all always — heart and soul," Olvera said on stage before recalling the band's humble beginnings and the years in which they all slept in a van. "We were working a lot, a lot, a lot until we reached what we have been sowing... We never thought, for example, that we were going to play in Israel or that we were going to be playing two years ago in the White House."



Fher Olvera, of Mana, performs at the Latin Recording Academy Person of the Year gala honoring Mana at the Mandalay Bay Events Center on Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2018.

Associated Press

More than a dozen Latin artists honored the band with renditions of its greatest hits. Gilberto Santa Rosa sang a salsa version of "Bendita tu Luz," Pablo Alborán performed a pop rendition of "Rayando el Sol," and Pepe Aguilar accompanied by the Mariachi Sol de México de José Hernández interpreted

"Mariposa Traicionera." The academy bestowed the honor on the band for its achievements and contributions to the Latin community and support of environmental protection and human rights causes. Mana has highlighted environmental, social, political and human rights issues for more than 30 years

through its songs, concerts and, more recently, social media. It has also promoted the Latino vote in the U.S. and has denounced what it deems as social injustices in countries such as Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia.

Olvera on Monday visited a temporary shelter in the Mexican state of Jalisco

where members of a caravan of Central Americans attempting to reach the U.S. border were resting. He offered them words of encouragement and sang "Rayando el Sol" y "El Muelle de San Blas."

"I went to see them. We've been supporting the immigrants here in the United States for more than 20 years," Olvera said.

"At the end of the day, we are brothers, we are human beings... We shouldn't be afraid of them... I told them be careful. I saw babies, I saw children. It was sad, but they have a lot of hope." González added that the immigrants wouldn't be on this journey "if there wasn't so much corruption in the countries they're coming from."

"Nobody wants to leave their country," González said on the red carpet. "These people are running away from a lot of very drastic situations.

It's a humanitarian crisis, but we have to help these people one way or another. Yes, it's illegal to enter a country, but as Fher says, brothers and sisters, humanitarian crisis, we have to help them." □

Marie Antoinette pearl reaps record \$36 million, with fees

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — A large, drop-shaped natural pearl pendant sold for more than \$36 million Wednesday at a rare auction of jewelry that once belonged to French Queen Marie Antoinette, which Sotheby's is calling a record price for a pearl at auction.

The "Queen Marie Antoinette's Pearl," a diamond-and-pearl pendant, was among the highlight offerings on the block at the Sotheby's sale of jewelry from the Bourbon-Parma dynasty in Geneva.

Sotheby's billed the sale as a once-in-a-lifetime chance to scoop up heirlooms and jewels that have been held in the Bourbon-Parma dynasty for generations.



In this Friday, Oct. 12, 2018 file photo, the Queen Marie Antoinette Pearl and diamond pendant, from the 18th century, is displayed at Sotheby's, in New York.

Associated Press

Some of the Marie Antoinette jewelry hadn't been

seen in public for 200 years — until now.

Like many of the 10 former Marie Antoinette pieces

up for sale, the pendant obliterated the pre-auction estimate — in its case, \$1 million to \$2 million.

It sold for a hammer price of 32 million Swiss francs (\$32 million), but with the buyer's premium and fees, the total sale rose to more than \$36.1 million.

The buyer wanted to remain anonymous, the auction house said.

All told, the Marie Antoinette pieces reaped nearly \$43 million.

The diamond and pearl jewelry of Marie Antoinette that went under the hammer epitomized the aloof, pre-Revolutionary opulence of French royals brought down by the uprising.

The wife of King Louis XVI, she was executed in France's revolutionary fervor in 1793. □

'This Is Us' season will answer war mysteries, creator says

By LYNN ELBER
Associated Press
LOS ANGELES (AP) — "This Is Us" star Milo Ventimiglia was between scenes on the set in Vietnam, the setting for a critical flashback story about his character Jack's wartime tragedy. Then modern-day reality merged with TV fiction about a decades-old conflict.

"I'm there in full battle dress, my rifle slung, my hat on, looking very much the 1970 U.S. soldier, and an older gentleman going past us said something in Vietnamese, did a double-take on me and then just kept going," Ventimiglia said of last month's encounter outside Ho Chi Minh City.

The Vietnamese actors he was working with suddenly burst out laughing, then filled him in.

"What the hell? What the hell is a U.S. soldier doing back here?" the man exclaimed as he zipped by on a motor scooter, Ventimiglia was told.

It was an isolated blip in an otherwise smooth week of shooting in Vietnam, with



This image provided by NBC shows Milo Ventimiglia as Jack Pearson in a scene from "This Is Us." Associated Press

the scenes to be scattered throughout "This Is Us" episodes as the series gradually unravels — in its trademark style — a key chapter of Jack's life.

The NBC drama, which toggles back and forth in time between moments big and small for its characters, is zeroing in on what Jack endured during the failed U.S.

war to defeat communist North Vietnam: The death of his brother, Nicky, played by Michael Angarano.

That's no spoiler, as "This Is Us" viewers know. But unlike the prolonged, angst-building revelation of how family man Jack died, series creator Dan Fogelman said the circumstances of Nicky's fate will be known by this season's end.

He is well aware of the audience's investment in Nicky, he said, with his own anxious friends and family serving as a barometer.

Fogelman credits the actors playing Nicky as a child and adult (Donnie Masihi, Angarano) and the bond between Jack and the younger brother he is driven to protect.

"It's definitely something

that's a big part of our season and that we'll get all the answers for by the end of the season," he said.

Does that include learning the identity of the woman shown alongside Jack in an intriguing wartime photo?

"Yes, exactly," Fogelman said, a reply at once comforting and opaque. He'd already made the point that providing answers on "This Is Us" often means raising more questions.

There will pain along the way, said Ventimiglia, who plays the patriarch of the Pearson family that includes wife Rebecca (Mandy Moore) and offspring Randall (Sterling K. Brown), Kate (Chrissy Metz) and Kevin (Justin Hartley). Even he was more deeply affected than usual by what Jack is facing, the actor said.

"When I watch the show, I've cried for Rebecca, I've cried for the kids. I never cry for Jack," Ventimiglia said, but that changed after he previewed the episode airing Tuesday. "It was really heartbreaking to see him go through what he went through."

Music Review: Imagine Dragons deliver again but differently

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

Imagine Dragons, "Origins" (Interscope/KIDina-KORNER)

Do Imagine Dragons ever sleep? Not apparently.

Less than a year and a half after releasing the double-platinum album "Evolve" and crisscrossing the globe on a 100-date tour, the band is back with a dozen new songs. Whew.

"Origins" is supposed to be a sister companion to last year's monster "Evolve" and it's an intriguing follow-up, offering more textures and sonic experiments.

If "Evolve" was the band stalking around as an arena powerhouse, "Origins" is their quirky little sister, making cool stuff in her bedroom.

Don't let the first single, "Natural," fool you. That



This cover image released by Interscope shows "Origins," a release by Imagine Dragons.

Associated Press

slice of bombastic, fist-pumping bravado seems to indicate more of the same on "Origins," but they drift into other areas, like the blissed-out summer

jam "Cool Out" that could be on a DNCE album, and the gloriously anarchic, disruptive "Digital," which plays with dub step and chops itself into pieces.

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NOV 15: 7:00PM
NOV 17-18: 11:30AM

BURN THE STAGE
KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]

THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD
EDDIE REDMAYNE | JOHNNY DEPP
ALL FORMATS WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU & SUN 8:15
FRI-SAT 8:15 | 11:00
CXC
MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:15 | 9:05
SAT-SUN 3:25 | 6:15 | 9:05
MON-THU 5:40 | 8:30
FRI 5:40 | 8:30 | 11:20
SAT 2:50 | 5:40 | 8:30 | 11:20
SUN 2:50 | 5:40 | 8:30

WIDOWS
VIOLA DAVIS | LIAM NEESON
ALL FORMATS WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-SUN 6:30 | 9:15
MON-SUN 6:00 | 8:45

instant family
MARK WAHLBERG | ROSE BYRNE
ALL FORMATS WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THU 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20
FRI 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SAT 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SUN 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20
SAT-SUN 3:30

THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB
CLAIRE FOY | SYLVIA HOEKS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [R]
MON-SUN 6:50

THE GRINCH
BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH | CAMERON SEELY
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
MON-THU 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40 | 10:40
FRI 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40 | 10:40
SAT 2:40 | 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40 | 10:40
SUN 2:40 | 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40
SPANISH
MON-FRI 4:25
SAT-SUN 2:20 | 4:25

JOHNNY ENGLISH
ROWAN ATKINSON | OLGA KURYLENKO
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG]
MON-FRI 4:10 | 6:10
SAT-SUN 2:10 | 4:10 | 6:10

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY
RAMI MALEK | LUCY BOYNTON
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13]
MON-THU 3:50 | 6:30
FRI-SUN 3:20 | 6:30

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Roy Clark, country guitar virtuoso, 'Hee Haw' star, has died

By KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

Country star Roy Clark, the guitar virtuoso and singer who headlined the cornpone TV show "Hee Haw" for nearly a quarter century and was known for such hits as "Yesterday When I Was Young" and "Honeymoon Feeling," has died. He was 85.

Publicist Jeremy Westby said Clark died Thursday due to complications from pneumonia at home in Tulsa, Okla.

Clark was "Hee Haw" host or co-host for its entire 24-year run, with Buck Owens his best known co-host. The country music and comedy show's last episode aired in 1993, though reruns continued for a few years thereafter.

"'Hee Haw' won't go away. It brings a smile to too many faces," he said in 2004, when the show was distributed on VHS and DVD for the first time.

Clark played the guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, harmonica and other instruments. His skills brought him gigs as guest performer with many top orchestras, including the Boston Pops. In 1976 he headlined a tour of the Soviet Union, breaking boundaries that were usually closed to Americans. And of course, he also was a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

His hits included "The Tips of My Fingers" (1963), "Yes-



In this May 17, 2009, file photo, country music star Roy Clark performs after being inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

terday When I Was Young" (1969), "Come Live With Me" (1973) and "Honeymoon Feeling" (1974). He was also known for his instrumental versions of "Malaguena," on 12-string guitar, and "Ghost Riders in the Sky."

He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2009, and emotionally told the crowd how moving it was "just to be associated yourself with the members of the Country Music Hall of Fame and imagine that your name will be said right along with all the list."

In his 1994 autobiography, "My Life in Spite of Myself," he said "Yesterday, When I

Was Young" had "opened a lot of people's eyes not only to what I could do but to the whole fertile and still largely untapped field of country music, from the Glen Campbells and the Kenny Rogerses, right on through to the Garth Brooks and Vince Gills."

Clark was guest host on "The Tonight Show" several times in the 1960s and 1970s when it was rare for a country performer to land such a role. His fans included not just musicians, but baseball great Mickey Mantle. The Yankees outfielder was moved to tears by "Yesterday When I Was

Young" and for years made Clark promise to sing it at his memorial — a request granted after Mantle died in 1995.

Beginning in 1983, Clark operated the Roy Clark Celebrity Theatre in Branson, Missouri, and was one of the first country entertainers to open a theater there. Dozens followed him.

He was a touring artist as late as the 2000s. Over the years, he played at venues around the world: Carnegie Hall in New York, the Sporting Club in Monte Carlo, the Grand Palace in Brussels and the Rossiya Theatre in Moscow.

Clark was born in Meherrin, Virginia, and received his first guitar on his 14th Christmas. He was playing in his father's square dance band at age 15.

In the 1950s, Clark played in bands in the Washington, D.C., area. In 1960, he got the chance to front the band of country singer Wanda Jackson. He also performed regularly in Las Vegas. He got his first recording contract, with Capitol Records, in 1962.

He appeared on Jimmy Dean's TV show "Town and Country Time" and took over the show when Dean left.

In 1997 he released "Roy Clark's Christmas Memories."

Clark and Owens worked together for years, but they had very different feelings about "Hee Haw." Owens, who left the show in 1986, later referred to it as a "cartoon donkey," one he endured for "that big paycheck." Clark told The Associated Press in 2004 that "Hee Haw" was like a family reunion. "We became a part of the family. The viewers were sort of part owners of the show. They identified with these clowns, and we had good music."

Clark said the hour-long program of country music and corny jokes capped off his career. "This was the icing on the cake. This put my face and name together." □

Baldacci introduces readers to Atlee Pine in new thriller

By JEFF AYERS

Associated Press

"Long Road to Mercy: an Atlee Pine Thriller" (Grand Central Publishing), by David Baldacci

David Baldacci introduces readers to FBI Special Agent Atlee Pine in his latest thriller, "Long Road to Mercy," that hopefully is the start of a new series featuring her adventures. Atlee Pine has a tumultuous past, but the memories of a particular day when she was 6 years old have not only isolated her from

trusting people, but have also given her the strength to become an excellent agent. She has taken the most remote assignment imaginable, running the Shattered Rock, Arizona, office of the FBI. Part of its jurisdiction involves working with National Park rangers to protect the Grand Canyon. When one of the mules used to transport riders down the canyon is found stabbed to death, Atlee is called in to investigate.

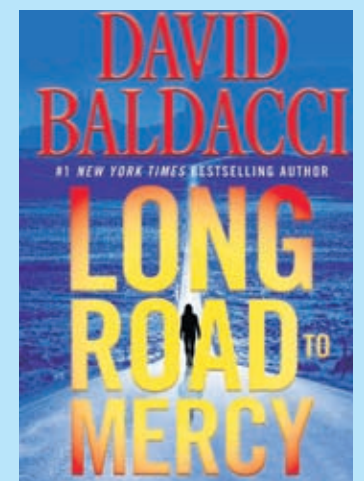
For what should have been

a loud incident, nobody in the nearby camp heard anything. The man who rode the mule down to the bottom has vanished.

When she starts asking questioning the campers and the rangers in the area, Atlee is removed from any further inquiry. Two potential ranger witnesses are suddenly transferred to another park. It becomes clear that if she continues to pursue the truth, her career will be over. Her supervisors don't know Atlee Pine at all. She

has to overcome her loner mentality and work with others to stop a horrible conspiracy. Hopefully she has the time.

Baldacci excels as a storyteller when it comes to FBI agents with baggage. He also knows how to craft a complex and compelling case for his stellar heroes to solve. Baldacci is at the top of his game here. The final reveal is both exciting and shocking. Readers will fall in love with Atlee, and hopefully Baldacci will bring her back soon. □



This cover image released by Grand Central Publishing shows "Long Road to Mercy," by David Baldacci. Associated Press

FDA to crack down on menthol cigarettes, flavored vapes

By **MIKE STOBBE**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In a major new effort to curb smoking, a top U.S. health official pledged Thursday to try to ban menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars and tighten rules governing the sale of most flavored versions of electronic cigarettes.

The proposed restrictions were aimed mainly at reducing smoking in kids: About half of teens who smoke cigarettes choose menthols, and flavored e-cigarettes have been blamed for a recent increase in teen vaping rates.

"I will not allow a generation of children to become addicted to nicotine through e-cigarettes," Scott Gottlieb, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, said in a statement.

Health advocates say a menthol ban would have greater impact on the health of Americans, but it would probably take years to put in place.

The changes for e-cigarettes could kick in within a few months.

Battery-powered e-cigarettes are more popular among teens than regular smokes and are considered safer. But many versions contain potentially addictive nicotine, and health officials believe they set kids who try them on a path toward regular cigarettes.

Gottlieb called for additional steps to prevent the marketing of e-cigarettes directly to kids and online sales to minors. He also proposed beefing up measures to ensure that convenience stores and some other retailers do not sell e-cigarettes in kid-friendly flavors such as cherry and vanilla. They could still be sold in vape shops or other businesses that do not admit minors.

Smoking is the nation's leading cause of preventable illness, causing more than 480,000 deaths each year. The FDA currently bans sales of e-cigarettes and tobacco products to those under 18.



This May 17, 2018 file photo shows packs of menthol cigarettes and other tobacco products at a store in San Francisco.



This Tuesday, April 10, 2018 file photo shows vaping devices, including a Juul, center, that were confiscated from students at a high school in Marshfield, Mass. On

In 2009, the government banned a number of kid-friendly flavorings in cigarettes. But after an aggressive lobbying effort by tobacco companies, menthol was exempted.

Gottlieb's proposal for e-cigarette flavorings also exempts menthol. He said menthol e-cigarettes may be an option for adults who turn to vaping products to quit regular cigarettes, and he decided not to push for an end to menthol flavoring in vaping products.

Smoking has been declining for more than five decades.

Some 42 percent of U.S. adults smoked in the early 1960s. Last year, the rate was down to 14 percent, according to the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention.

Experts credit anti-smoking campaigns, cigarette taxes and smoking bans for most of the decline in the adult rate. But some say adult smokers switching to e-cigarettes have also helped in recent years.

The cigarette smoking rate is even lower among high school students — about 9 percent, according to the latest figures.

But e-cigarette use jumped 78 percent this year among U.S. high school kids and 48 percent among middle school kids, Gottlieb said. He cited a survey this past spring of more than 20,000 middle and high school students.

About 21 percent of high

Associated Press

schoolers said they had vaped recently, and 5 percent of middle schoolers said they had.

Some experts attribute the jump to newer versions of e-cigarettes, like those by Juul Labs Inc. of San Francisco. These products resemble computer flash drives, can be recharged in USB ports and can be used discreetly.

"The increase in e-cigarette popularity (among kids) is almost certainly not a function of flavors.

All the flavors were out there already," said Kenneth Warner, a University of Michigan emeritus public health professor who is a leading authority on smoking and health.

The FDA has taken earlier steps to investigate the marketing of e-cigarettes by Juul and other companies.

Getting out ahead of the FDA announcement, Juul on Tuesday stopped filling store orders for mango, fruit, creme and cucumber pods and will resume sales only to retailers that scan IDs and take other steps to verify a buyer is at least 21. The company said Juul will continue to sell menthol and mint at stores, and sell all flavors through its website.

Health advocates gener-

ally applauded the e-cigarette plans, but some said they did not go far enough. Some called for a complete ban of flavorings, for example, and a more aggressive regulation of e-cigarettes that have come on the market in the last two years.

The proposed sales restrictions on e-cigarettes "are a step forward, but by themselves are not enough to stem the youth e-cigarette epidemic," said Robin Koval, chief executive of the Truth Initiative, an advocacy group that runs anti-tobacco ads.

Gottlieb acknowledged that he could have taken more aggressive steps, "but I don't want to foreclose opportunities for currently addicted adult smokers" to access e-cigarettes as they try to quit regular smokes.

He also said he hopes e-cigarette companies work to restrict kids from buying their products. If current efforts do not succeed, he's willing to take more steps later, he said.

Menthol cigarettes, which contain a minty compound that reduces the harshness of smoke and suppresses coughing, were widely marketed starting in the 1950s and 1960s.

Roughly a third of the cigarettes sold today are menthols, according to some estimates.

The e-cigarette measures will probably face little opposition, but Gottlieb "has guts" to pursue a menthol prohibition because it will draw political and legal fire from the tobacco industry and its supporters, Warner said.

An official with Altria Group Inc., one of the big tobacco companies, said a total ban on menthol cigarettes or flavored cigars "would be an extreme measure not supported by the science and evidence."

Murray Garnick, Altria's general counsel, said the company expects that establishing product standards on menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars "will be a multi-year, deliberative process." □